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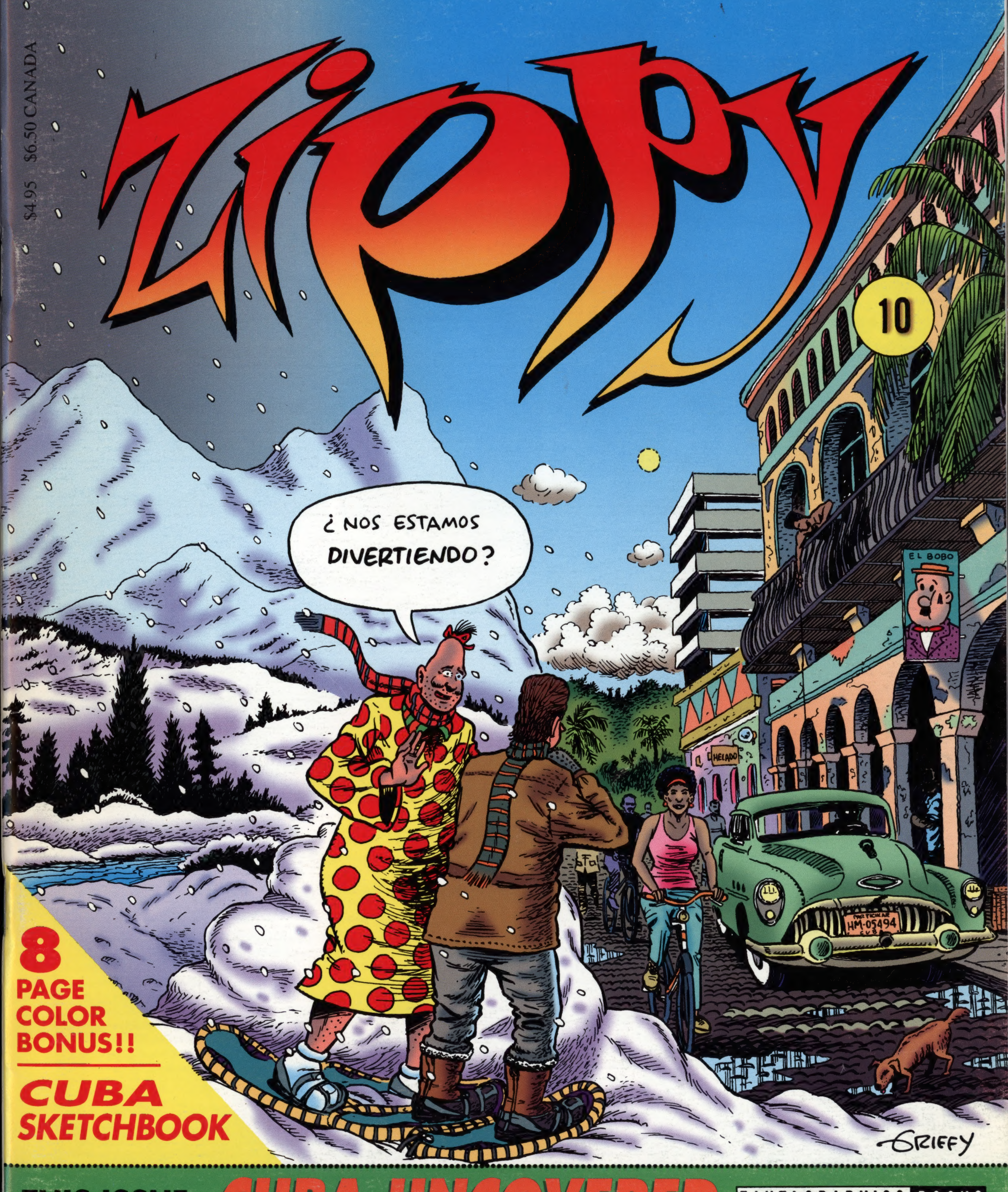
Zippy

10

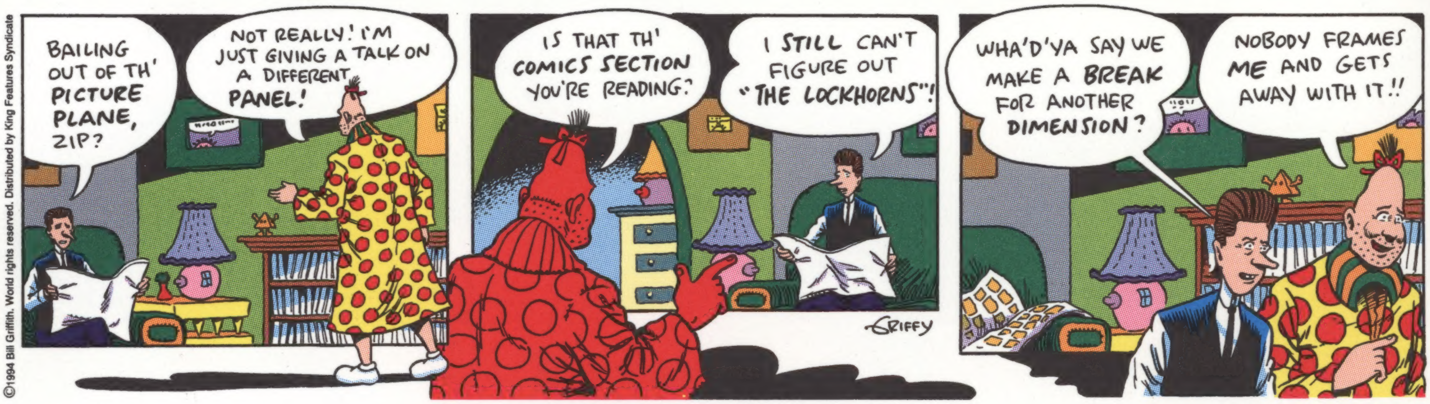

¿NOS ESTAMOS DIVERTIENDO?
EL BOBO
HELADO
HM-05494
GRIFFY

8 PAGE COLOR BONUS!!

CUBA SKETCHBOOK

THIS ISSUE: CUBA UNCOVERED

FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS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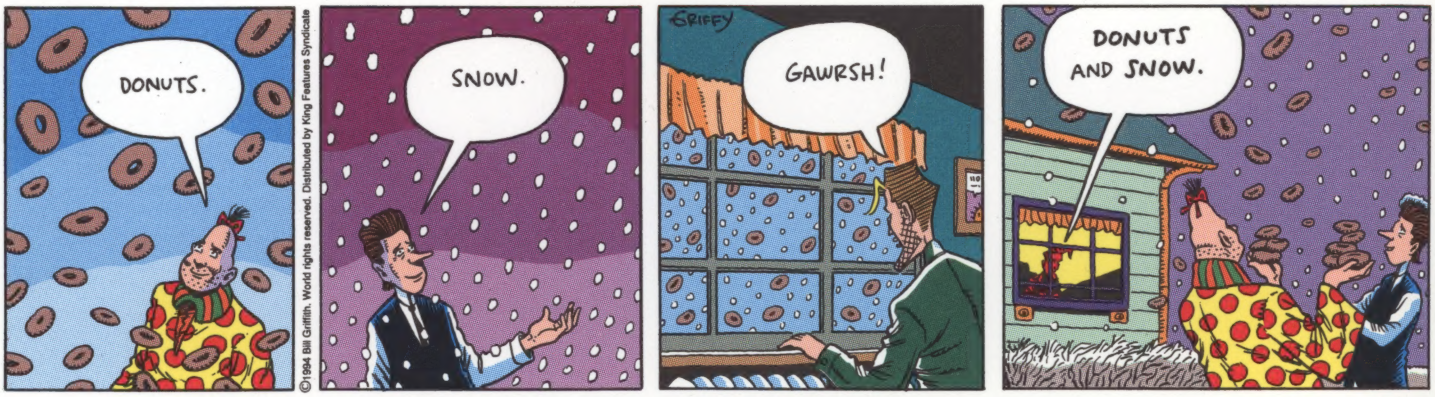
BAILING OUT OF TH' PICTURE PLANE, ZIP?
NOT REALLY! I'M JUST GIVING A TALK ON A DIFFERENT PANEL!
IS THAT TH' COMICS SECTION YOU'RE READING?
I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT "THE LOCKHORNS"!
WHA'D'YA SAY WE MAKE A BREAK FOR ANOTHER DIMENSION?
NOBODY FRAMES ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!!
GRIFFY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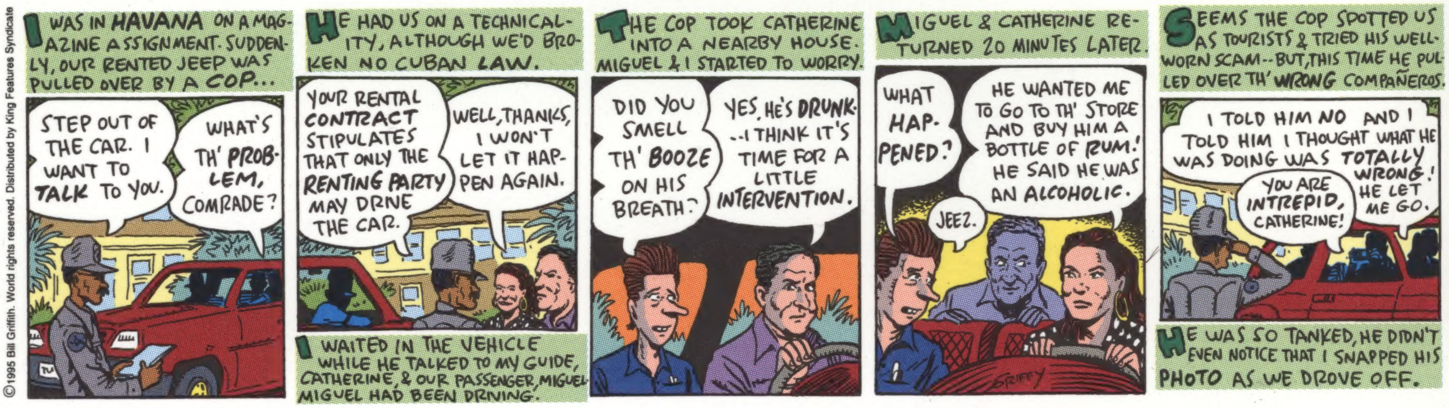
DONUTS.
SNOW.
GRIFFY
GAWRSH!
DONUTS AND SNOW.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I WAS IN HAVANA ON A MAGAZINE ASSIGNMENT. SUDDENLY, OUR RENTED JEEP WAS PULLED OVER BY A COP...
STEP OUT OF THE CAR. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
WHAT'S TH' PROBLEM, COMRADE?
HE HAD US ON A TECHNICALITY, ALTHOUGH WE'D BROKEN NO CUBAN LAW.
YOUR RENTAL CONTRACT STIPULATES THAT ONLY THE RENTING PARTY MAY DRIVE THE CAR.
WELL, THANKS, I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
I WAITED IN THE VEHICLE WHILE HE TALKED TO MY GUIDE, CATHERINE, & OUR PASSENGER, MIGUEL. MIGUEL HAD BEEN DRIVING.
THE COP TOOK CATHERINE INTO A NEARBY HOUSE. MIGUEL & I STARTED TO WORRY.
DID YOU SMELL TH' BOOZE ON HIS BREATH?
YES, HE'S DRUNK. --I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE INTERVENTION.
MIGUEL & CATHERINE RETURNED 20 MINUTES LATER.
WHAT HAPPENED?
HE WANTED ME TO GO TO TH' STORE AND BUY HIM A BOTTLE OF RUM! HE SAID HE WAS AN ALCOHOLIC.
JEEZ.
GRIFFY
SEEMS THE COP SPOTTED US AS TOURISTS & TRIED HIS WELL-WORN SCAM--BUT, THIS TIME HE PULLED OVER TH' WRONG COMPAÑEROS.
I TOLD HIM NO AND I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS TOTALLY WRONG! HE LET ME GO.
YOU ARE INTREPID, CATHERINE!
HE WAS SO TANKED, HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT I SNAPPED HIS PHOTO AS WE DROVE OFF.

For Cuba, special thanks to: Catherine Murphy, Françoise Mouly, Kristen Siemon, Diane Noomin, the Himely Family, Medea Benjamin, Rodrigo Gonzalez and Global Exchange. For information on travel to Cuba, write Global Exchange, 2017 Mission St., San Francisco CA 94110.

Translations of titles in "Cuba Uncovered": "Bolaissimo!!" (Cool!!), "Nada Que Declarar" (Nothing to Declare), "Solo de Paso" (Just Passing Through), "Un Recorrido Turistico" (A Sightseeing Tour), "¿Hay Servicio de Habitacion?" (Is There Room Service?), "Cuba Libre, Por Favor" (Cuba Libre, Please), "Puntos de Interes" (Points of Interest), "El Hombre Viejo" (The Old Man), "Revolucion y Helado" (Revolution and Ice Cream), "¿Me Permite Este Baile?" (May I Have This Dance?), "Socialismo o Presley" (Socialism or Presley), "Ha Sido Una Tarde Estupenda" (It's Been a Wonderful Evening), "¿Donde Estoy?" (Where Am I?), "¿Tiene Usted Lumbre, Por Favor?" (Do Your Have a Light, Please?), "¿A Donda Lleva Este Calle?" (Where Does This Road Lead To?), "¡¡Ay, Vecinos!!" (Hey, Neighbors!!), "¿Quien Pinto Ese Cuadro?" (Who Painted That Picture?), "Es Abrumador…" (It's Overwhelming), "Un Mapa de Carreteras" (A Street Map), "Especialidad Local" (Local Speciality), "Una Habitacion Con Una Vista" (A Room With a View), "Solo Para Uso Externo" (For External Use Only), "Una Localidad En La Sombra" (A Place in the Shade), "¿Es Divertido, No?" (It's Funny, No?), "Aire Acondicianado y Socialismo" (Air Conditioning and Socialism), "¿Que Hora Empiezan Las Attraciones?" (When Does the Floor Show Start?), "¿Quien Esta En La Primera?" (Who's On First?), "Quisiera Un Palillo, Por Favor" (I'd Like a Toothpick, Please), "El Mareo" (Travel Sickness), "La Habana Vieja y El Mar" (Old Havana and the Sea), "Ida y Vuelta" (Round Trip), "Esta No Es Mi Ropa" (This Is Not My Laundry), "El Color de Dinero" (The Color of Money), "Muchas Gracias Por Todo, Tato" (Thanks For Everything, Tato), "¿Cuba Se Vende?" (Cuba For Sale), "¡Que Frio Se Hace!" (How Cold It's Getting!), "¡Frente Frio!" (Cold Front), "Sierra Nevada" (Snowy Mountain Range).

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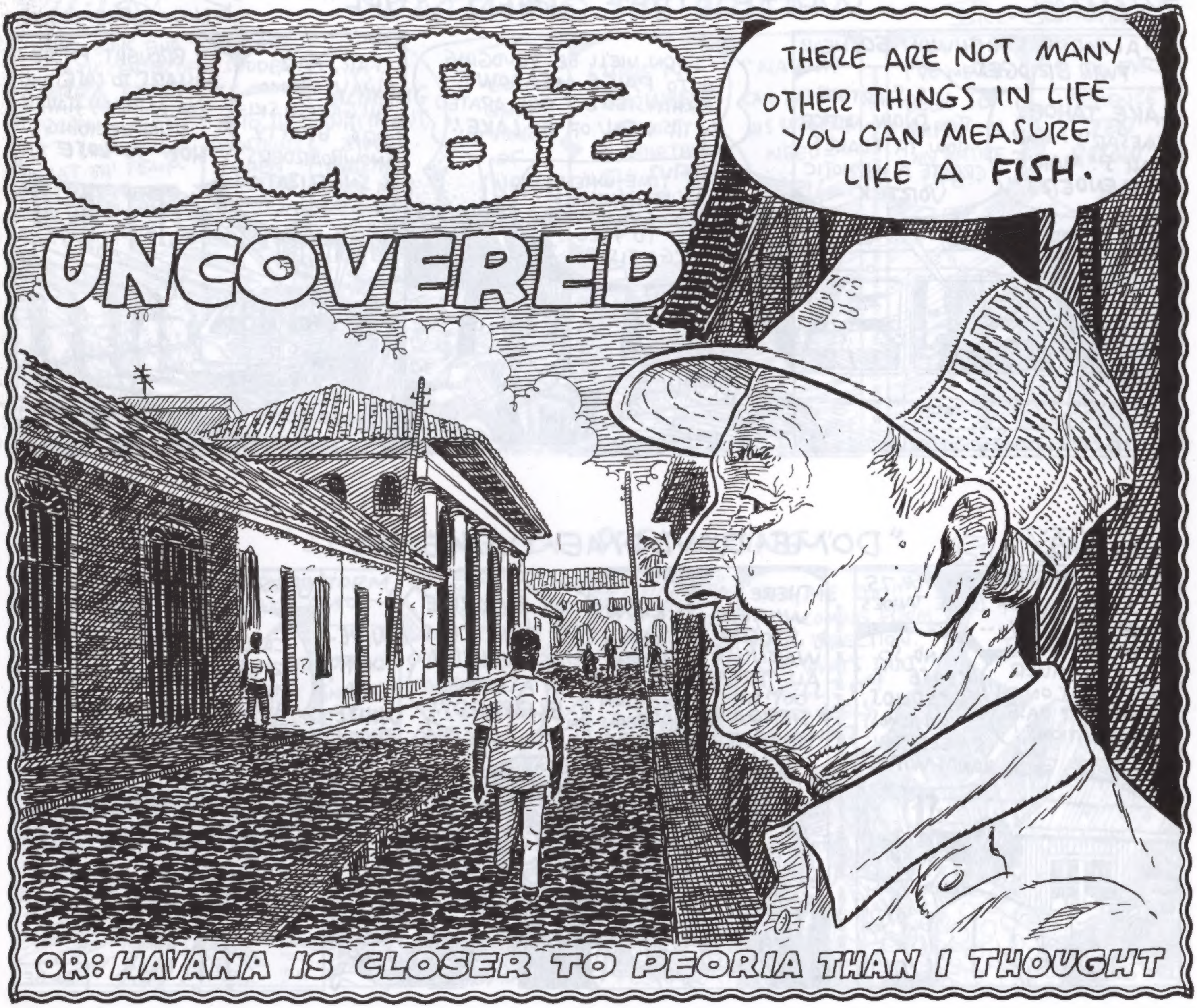
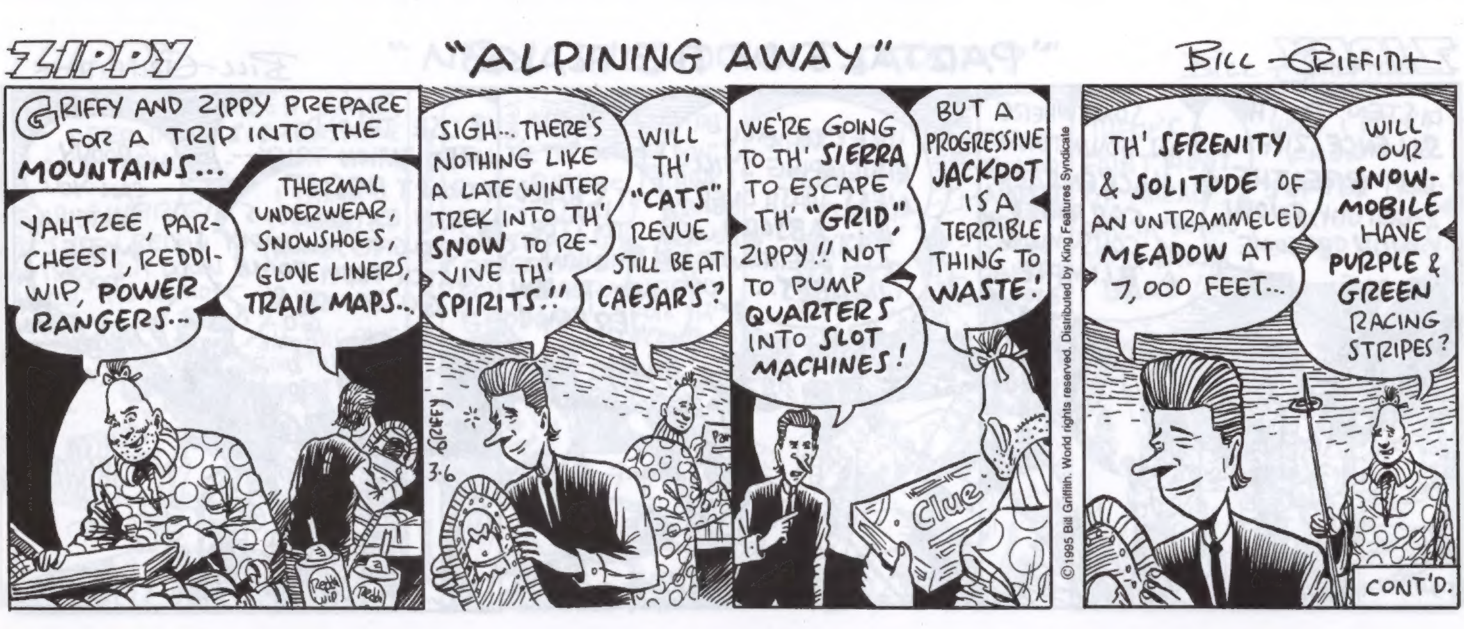

CUBA
UNCOVERED
THERE ARE NOT MANY OTHER THINGS IN LIFE YOU CAN MEASURE LIKE A FISH.
TES
OR: HAVANA IS CLOSER TO PEORIA THAN I THOUGHT


ZIPPY
"ALPINING AWAY"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY AND ZIPPY PREPARE FOR A TRIP INTO THE MOUNTAINS...
YAHTZEE, PARCHEESI, REDDI-WIP, POWER RANGERS...
THERMAL UNDERWEAR, SNOWSHOES, GLOVE LINERS, TRAIL MAPS...
SIGH... THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LATE WINTER TREK INTO TH' SNOW TO REVIVE TH' SPIRITS!!
WILL TH' "CATS" REVUE STILL BE AT CAESAR'S?
GRIFFY 3-6
WE'RE GOING TO TH' SIERRA TO ESCAPE TH' "GRID," ZIPPY!! NOT TO PUMP QUARTERS INTO SLOT MACHINES!
BUT A PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE!
Clue
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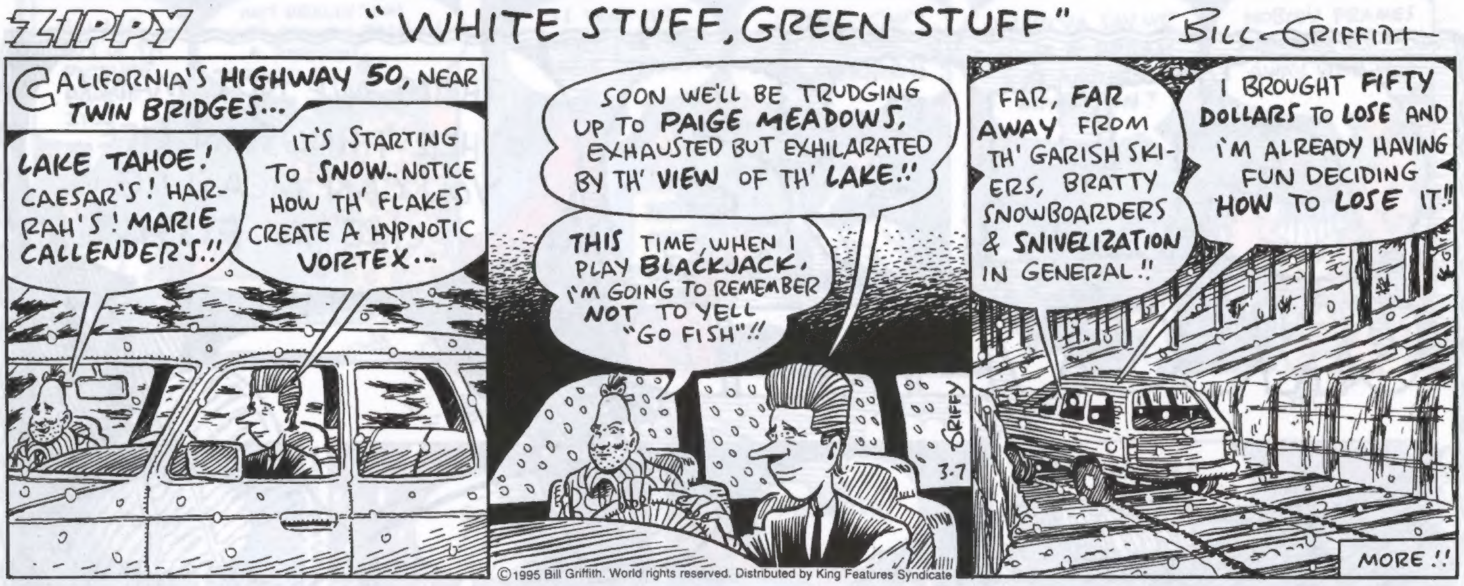
TH' SERENITY & SOLITUDE OF AN UNTRAMMELED MEADOW AT 7,000 FEET...
WILL OUR SNOWMOBILE HAVE PURPLE & GREEN RACING STRIPES?
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"WHITE STUFF, GREEN STUFF"
BILL GRIFFITH
CALIFORNIA'S HIGHWAY 50, NEAR TWIN BRIDGES...
LAKE TAHOE! CAESAR'S! HARRAH'S! MARIE CALLENDER'S.!!
IT'S STARTING TO SNOW.. NOTICE HOW TH' FLAKES CREATE A HYPNOTIC VORTEX...
SOON WE'LL BE TRUDGING UP TO PAIGE MEADOWS, EXHAUSTED BUT EXHILARATED BY TH' VIEW OF TH' LAKE.!!
THIS TIME, WHEN I PLAY BLACKJACK, I'M GOING TO REMEMBER NOT TO YELL "GO FISH"!!
GRIFFY 3-7
FAR, FAR AWAY FROM TH' GARISH SKIERS, BRATTY SNOWBOARDERS & SNIVELIZATION IN GENERAL!!
I BROUGHT FIFTY DOLLARS TO LOSE AND I'M ALREADY HAVING FUN DECIDING HOW TO LOSE IT!!
MORE!!
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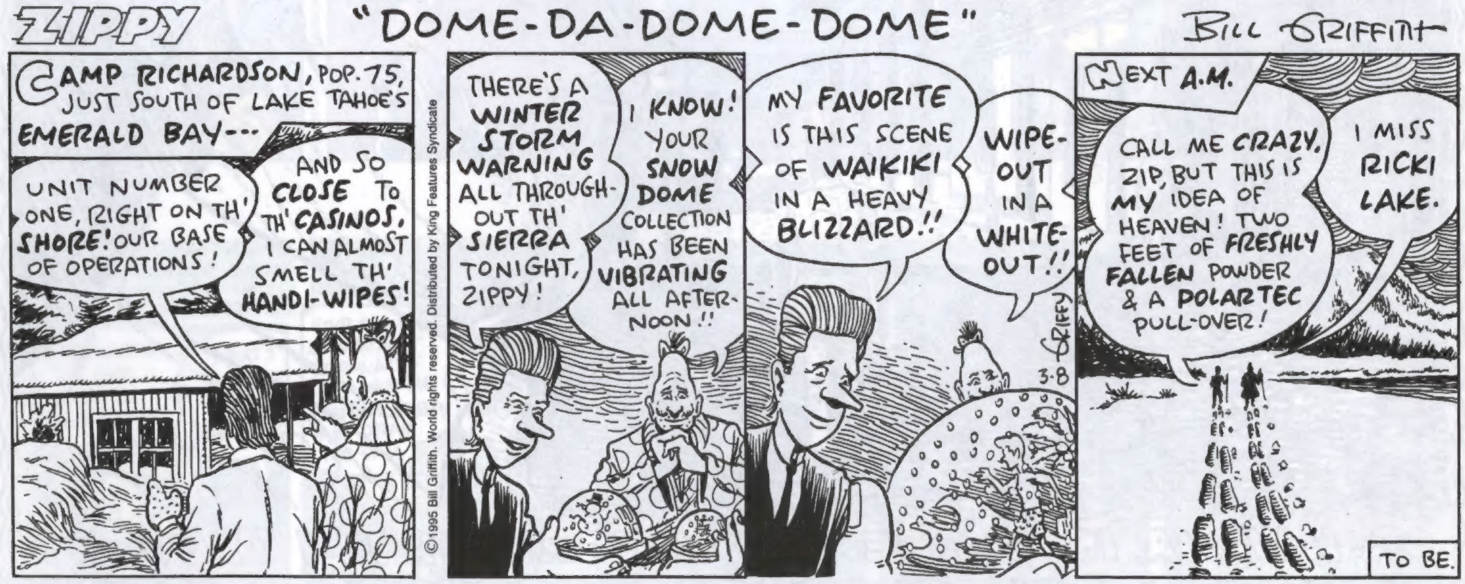
ZIPPY
"DOME-DA-DOME-DOME"
BILL GRIFFITH
CAMP RICHARDSON, POP. 75, JUST SOUTH OF LAKE TAHOE'S EMERALD BAY---
UNIT NUMBER ONE, RIGHT ON TH' SHORE! OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS!
AND SO CLOSE TO TH' CASINOS, I CAN ALMOST SMELL TH' HANDI-WIPES!
THERE'S A WINTER STORM WARNING ALL THROUGHOUT TH' SIERRA TONIGHT, ZIPPY!
I KNOW! YOUR SNOW DOME COLLECTION HAS BEEN VIBRATING ALL AFTERNOON!!
MY FAVORITE IS THIS SCENE OF WAIKIKI IN A HEAVY BLIZZARD!!
WIPE-OUT IN A WHITE-OUT!!
GRIFFY 3-8
NEXT A.M.
CALL ME CRAZY, ZIP, BUT THIS IS MY IDEA OF HEAVEN! TWO FEET OF FRESHLY FALLEN POWDER & A POLARTEC PULL-OVER!
I MISS RICKI LAKE.
TO BE.
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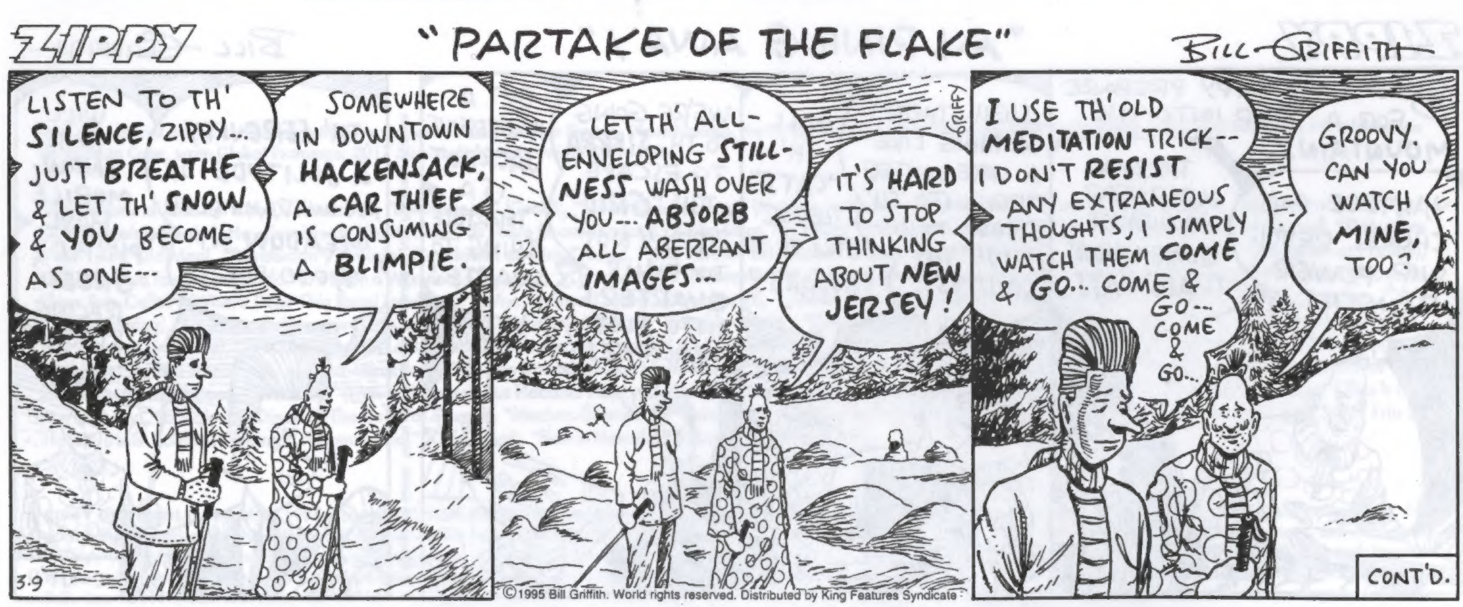
ZIPPY
"PARTAKE OF THE FLAKE"
BILL GRIFFITH
LISTEN TO TH' SILENCE, ZIPPY... JUST BREATHE & LET TH' SNOW & YOU BECOME AS ONE--
SOMEWHERE IN DOWNTOWN HACKENSACK, A CAR THIEF IS CONSUMING A BLIMPIE.
3-9
LET TH' ALL-ENVELOPING STILLNESS WASH OVER YOU... ABSORB ALL ABERRANT IMAGES...
IT'S HARD TO STOP THINKING ABOUT NEW JERSEY!
GRIFFY
I USE TH' OLD MEDITATION TRICK-- I DON'T RESIST ANY EXTRANEOUS THOUGHTS, I SIMPLY WATCH THEM COME & GO... COME & GO-- COME & GO...
GROOVY. CAN YOU WATCH MINE, TOO?
CONT'D.
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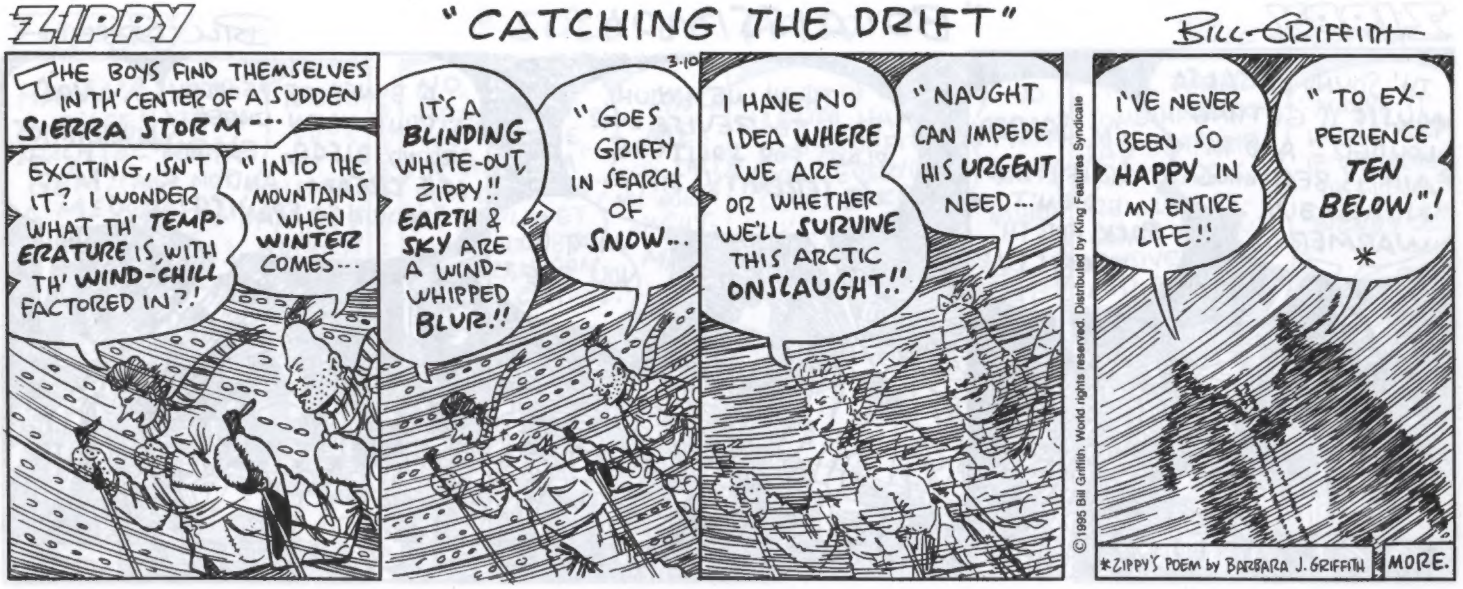
ZIPPY
"CATCHING THE DRIFT"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE BOYS FIND THEMSELVES IN TH' CENTER OF A SUDDEN SIERRA STORM--
EXCITING, ISN'T IT? I WONDER WHAT TH' TEMPERATURE IS, WITH TH' WIND-CHILL FACTORED IN?!
"INTO THE MOUNTAINS WHEN WINTER COMES...
3-10
IT'S A BLINDING WHITE-OUT, ZIPPY!! EARTH & SKY ARE A WIND-WHIPPED BLUR!!
"GOES GRIFFY IN SEARCH OF SNOW...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE OR WHETHER WE'LL SURVIVE THIS ARCTIC ONSLAUGHT!!
"NAUGHT CAN IMPEDE HIS URGENT NEED...
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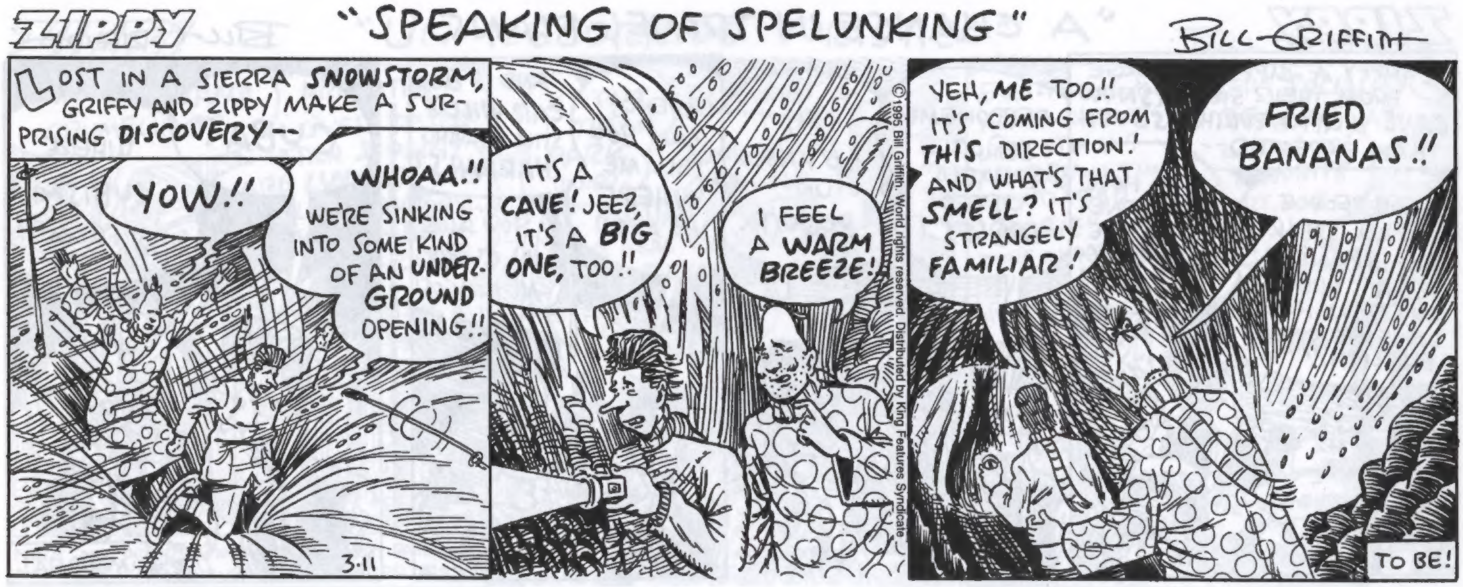
I'VE NEVER BEEN SO HAPPY IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!!
"TO EXPERIENCE TEN BELOW"! *
*ZIPPY'S POEM BY BARBARA J. GRIFFITH
MORE.


ZIPPY
"SPEAKING OF SPELUNKING"
BILL GRIFFITH
LOST IN A SIERRA SNOWSTORM, GRIFFY AND ZIPPY MAKE A SURPRISING DISCOVERY--
YOW!!
WHOAA!! WE'RE SINKING INTO SOME KIND OF AN UNDERGROUND OPENING!!
3-11
IT'S A CAVE! JEEZ, IT'S A BIG ONE, TOO!!
I FEEL A WARM BREEZE!!
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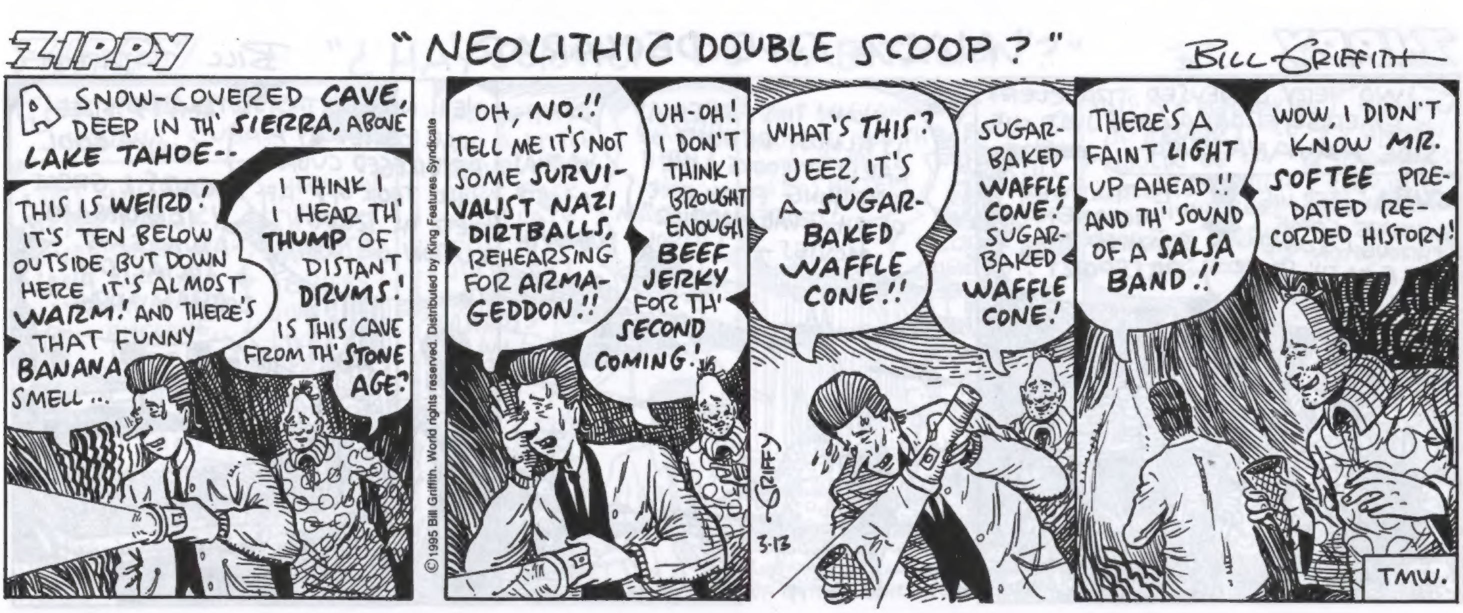
YEH, ME TOO!! IT'S COMING FROM THIS DIRECTION! AND WHAT'S THAT SMELL? IT'S STRANGELY FAMILIAR!
FRIED BANANAS!!
TO BE!


ZIPPY
"NEOLITHIC DOUBLE SCOOP?"
BILL GRIFFITH
A SNOW-COVERED CAVE, DEEP IN TH' SIERRA, ABOVE LAKE TAHOE--
THIS IS WEIRD! IT'S TEN BELOW OUTSIDE, BUT DOWN HERE IT'S ALMOST WARM! AND THERE'S THAT FUNNY BANANA SMELL...
I THINK I HEAR TH' THUMP OF DISTANT DRUMS! IS THIS CAVE FROM TH' STONE AGE?
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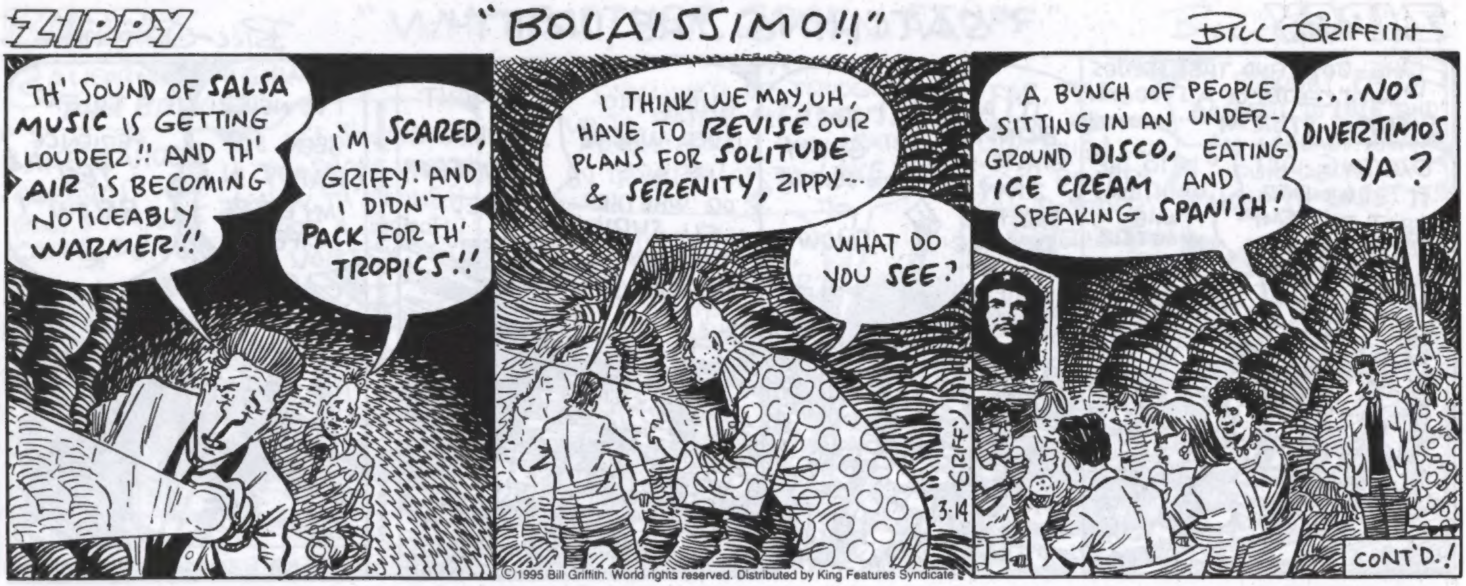
OH, NO!! TELL ME IT'S NOT SOME SURVIVALIST NAZI DIRTBALLS, REHEARSING FOR ARMAGEDDON!!
UH-OH! I DON'T THINK I BROUGHT ENOUGH BEEF JERKY FOR TH' SECOND COMING!
GRIFFY
3-13
WHAT'S THIS? JEEZ, IT'S A SUGAR-BAKED WAFFLE CONE!!
SUGAR-BAKED WAFFLE CONE! SUGAR-BAKED WAFFLE CONE!
THERE'S A FAINT LIGHT UP AHEAD!! AND TH' SOUND OF A SALSA BAND!!
WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW MR. SOFTEE PRE-DATED RECORDED HISTORY!
TMW.


ZIPPY
"BOLAISSIMO!!"
BILL GRIFFITH
TH' SOUND OF SALSA MUSIC IS GETTING LOUDER!! AND TH' AIR IS BECOMING NOTICEABLY WARMER!!
I'M SCARED, GRIFFY! AND I DIDN'T PACK FOR TH' TROPICS!!
I THINK WE MAY, UH, HAVE TO REVISE OUR PLANS FOR SOLITUDE & SERENITY, ZIPPY---
WHAT DO YOU SEE?
GRIFF
3-14
A BUNCH OF PEOPLE SITTING IN AN UNDERGROUND DISCO, EATING ICE CREAM AND SPEAKING SPANISH!
...NOS DIVERTIMOS YA?
CONT'D.!

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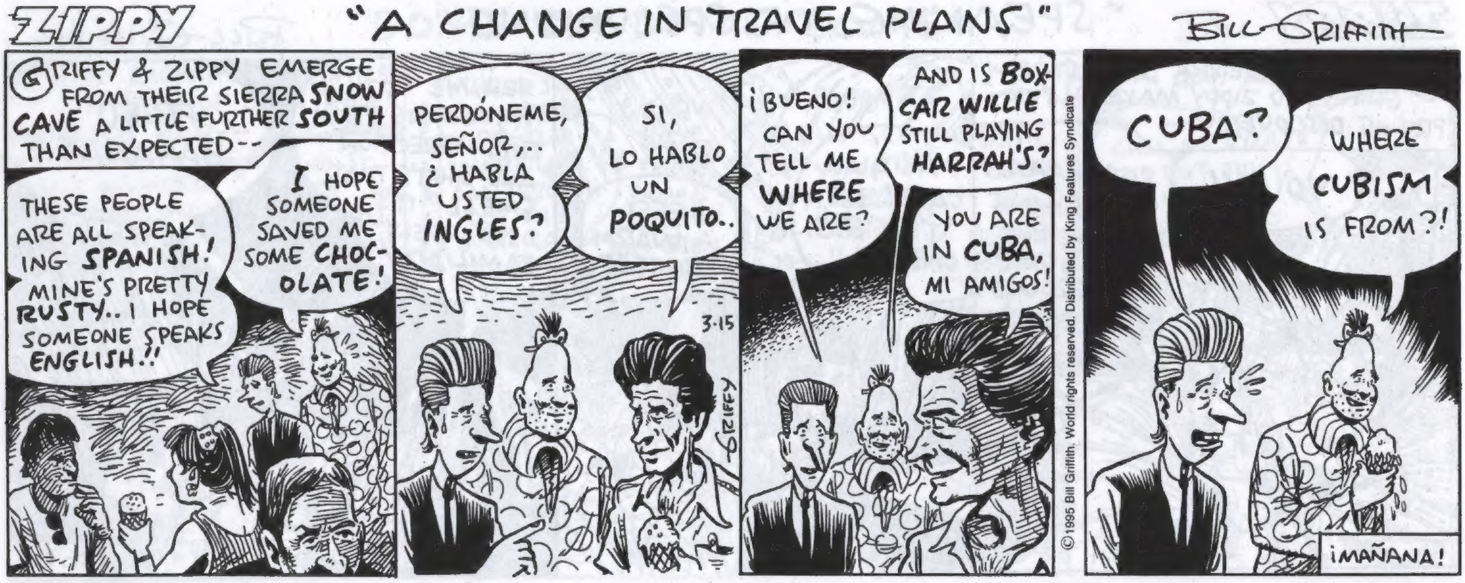
ZIPPY
"A CHANGE IN TRAVEL PLANS"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY & ZIPPY EMERGE FROM THEIR SIERRA SNOW CAVE A LITTLE FURTHER SOUTH THAN EXPECTED--
THESE PEOPLE ARE ALL SPEAKING SPANISH! MINE'S PRETTY RUSTY.. I HOPE SOMEONE SPEAKS ENGLISH!!
I HOPE SOMEONE SAVED ME SOME CHOCOLATE!
PERDÓNEME, SEÑOR,.. ¿ HABLA USTED INGLES?
SI, LO HABLO UN POQUITO..
3-15
GRIFFY
¡BUENO! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE WE ARE?
AND IS BOX-CAR WILLIE STILL PLAYING HARRAH'S?
YOU ARE IN CUBA, MI AMIGOS!
CUBA?
WHERE CUBISM IS FROM?!
¡MAÑANA!

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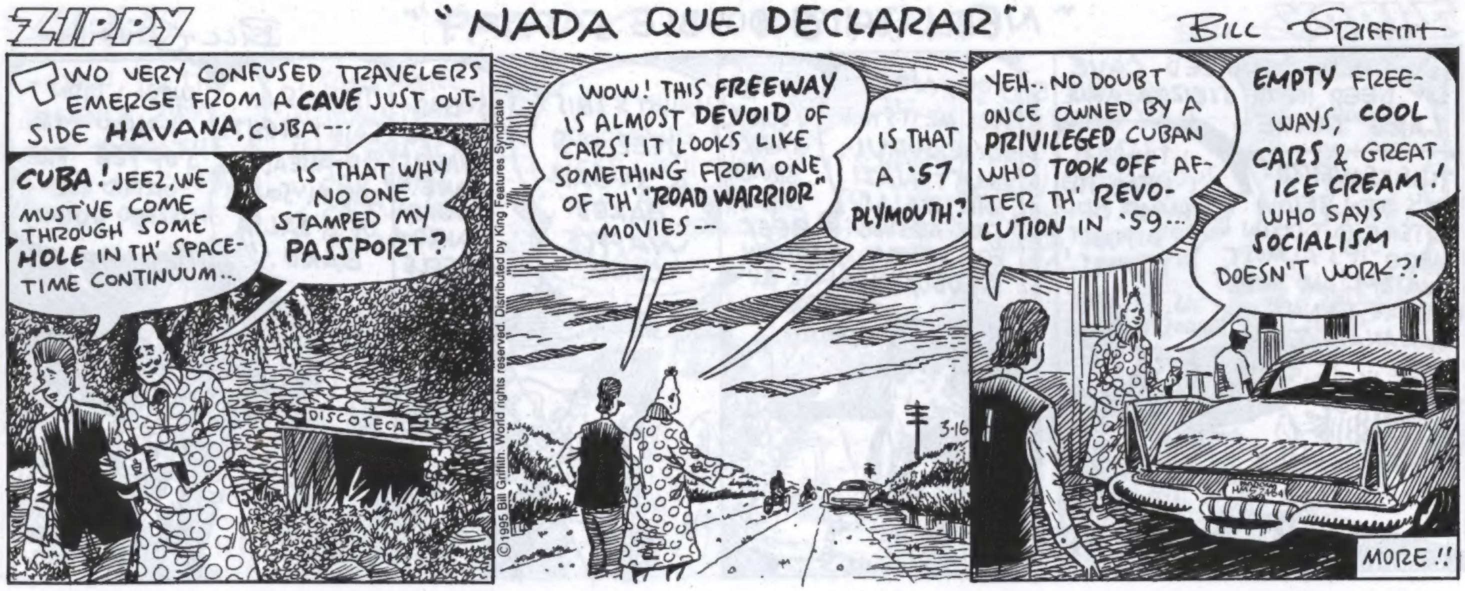
ZIPPY
"NADA QUE DECLARAR"
BILL GRIFFITH
TWO VERY CONFUSED TRAVELERS EMERGE FROM A CAVE JUST OUTSIDE HAVANA, CUBA---
CUBA! JEEZ, WE MUST'VE COME THROUGH SOME HOLE IN TH' SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM..
IS THAT WHY NO ONE STAMPED MY PASSPORT?
DISCOTECA
WOW! THIS FREEWAY IS ALMOST DEVOID OF CARS! IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING FROM ONE OF TH' "ROAD WARRIOR" MOVIES---
IS THAT A '57 PLYMOUTH?
3-16
YEH.. NO DOUBT ONCE OWNED BY A PRIVILEGED CUBAN WHO TOOK OFF AFTER TH' REVOLUTION IN '59...
EMPTY FREEWAYS, COOL CARS & GREAT ICE CREAM! WHO SAYS SOCIALISM DOESN'T WORK?!
MORE!!

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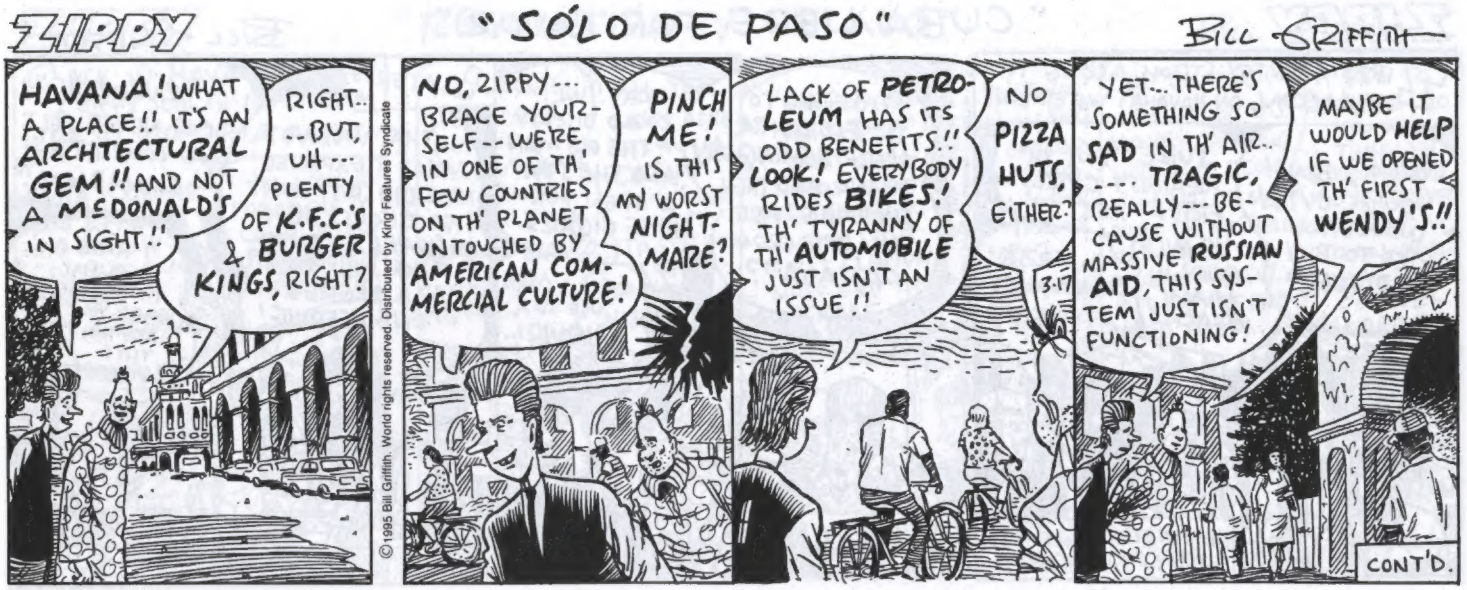
ZIPPY
"SÓLO DE PASO"
BILL GRIFFITH
HAVANA! WHAT A PLACE!! IT'S AN ARCHTECTURAL GEM!! AND NOT A McDONALD'S IN SIGHT!!
RIGHT.. --BUT, UH--- PLENTY OF K.F.C.'S & BURGER KINGS, RIGHT?
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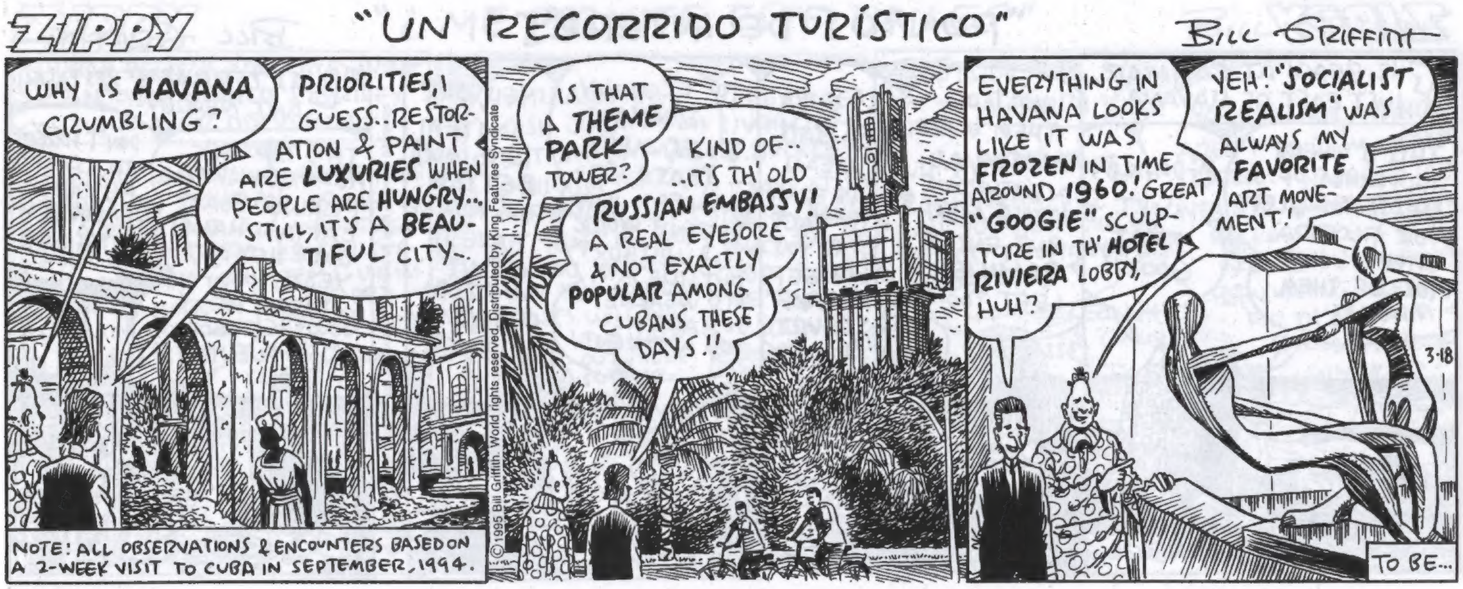
NO, ZIPPY--- BRACE YOURSELF--WE'RE IN ONE OF TH' FEW COUNTRIES ON TH' PLANET UNTOUCHED BY AMERICAN COMMERCIAL CULTURE!
PINCH ME! IS THIS MY WORST NIGHTMARE?
LACK OF PETROLEUM HAS ITS ODD BENEFITS!! LOOK! EVERYBODY RIDES BIKES! TH' TYRANNY OF TH' AUTOMOBILE JUST ISN'T AN ISSUE!!
NO PIZZA HUTS, EITHER?
3-17
YET... THERE'S SOMETHING SO SAD IN TH' AIR.. ---. TRAGIC, REALLY---BECAUSE WITHOUT MASSIVE RUSSIAN AID, THIS SYSTEM JUST ISN'T FUNCTIONING!
MAYBE IT WOULD HELP IF WE OPENED TH' FIRST WENDY'S!!
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"UN RECORRIDO TURÍSTICO"
BILL GRIFFITH
WHY IS HAVANA CRUMBLING?
PRIORITIES, I GUESS..RESTORATION & PAINT ARE LUXURIES WHEN PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY... STILL, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL CITY..
NOTE: ALL OBSERVATIONS & ENCOUNTERS BASED ON A 2-WEEK VISIT TO CUBA IN SEPTEMBER, 1994.
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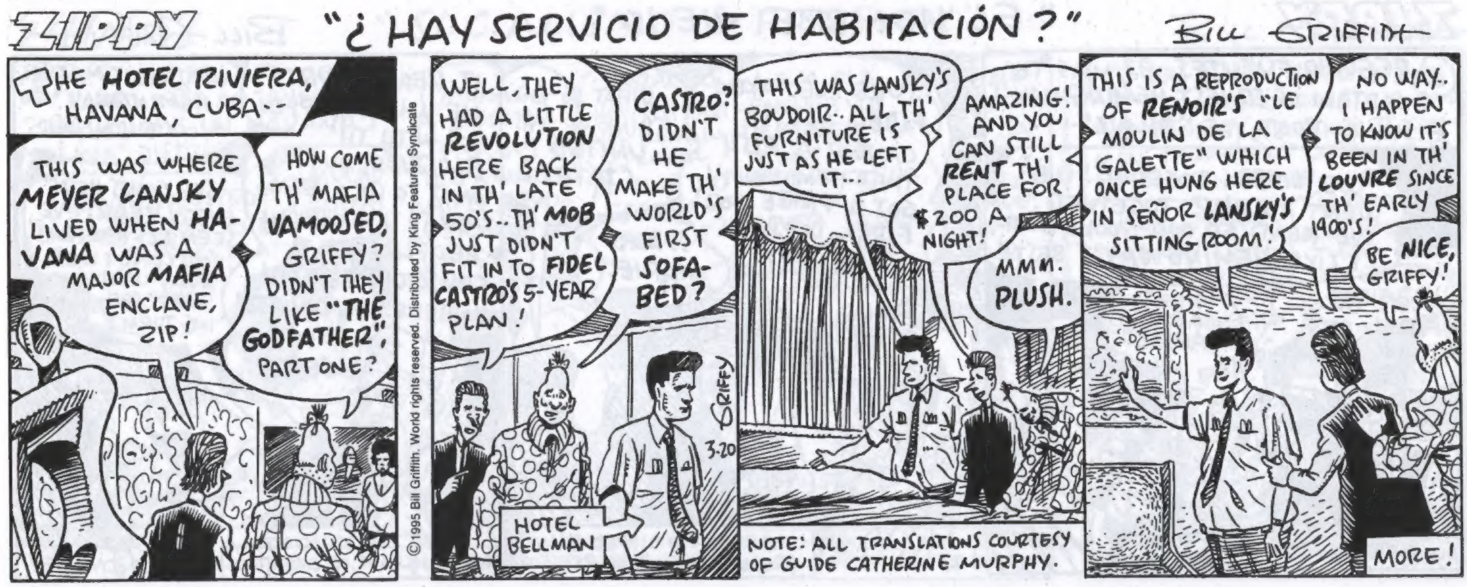
IS THAT A THEME PARK TOWER?
KIND OF.. ..IT'S TH' OLD RUSSIAN EMBASSY! A REAL EYESORE & NOT EXACTLY POPULAR AMONG CUBANS THESE DAYS!!
EVERYTHING IN HAVANA LOOKS LIKE IT WAS FROZEN IN TIME AROUND 1960.' GREAT "GOOGIE" SCULPTURE IN TH' HOTEL RIVIERA LOBBY, HUH?
YEH! "SOCIALIST REALISM" WAS ALWAYS MY FAVORITE ART MOVEMENT!
3-18
TO BE...


ZIPPY
"¿HAY SERVICIO DE HABITACIÓN?"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE HOTEL RIVIERA, HAVANA, CUBA--
THIS WAS WHERE MEYER LANSKY LIVED WHEN HAVANA WAS A MAJOR MAFIA ENCLAVE, ZIP!
HOW COME TH' MAFIA VAMOOSED, GRIFFY? DIDN'T THEY LIKE "THE GODFATHER", PART ONE?
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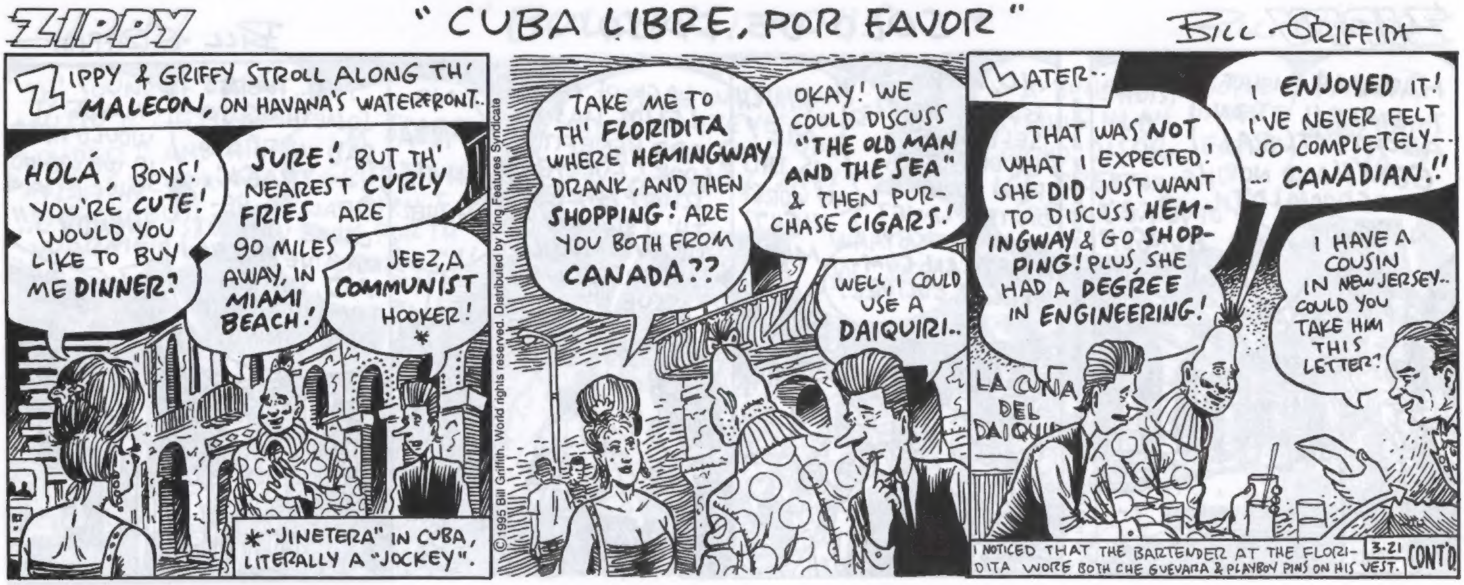
WELL, THEY HAD A LITTLE REVOLUTION HERE BACK IN TH' LATE 50'S..TH' MOB JUST DIDN'T FIT IN TO FIDEL CASTRO'S 5-YEAR PLAN!
CASTRO? DIDN'T HE MAKE TH' WORLD'S FIRST SOFA-BED?
HOTEL BELLMAN
GRIFFY
3-20
THIS WAS LANSKY'S BOUDOIR.. ALL TH' FURNITURE IS JUST AS HE LEFT IT...
AMAZING! AND YOU CAN STILL RENT TH' PLACE FOR $200 A NIGHT!
MMM. PLUSH.
NOTE: ALL TRANSLATIONS COURTESY OF GUIDE CATHERINE MURPHY.
THIS IS A REPRODUCTION OF RENOIR'S "LE MOULIN DE LA GALETTE" WHICH ONCE HUNG HERE IN SEÑOR LANSKY'S SITTING ROOM!
NO WAY.. I HAPPEN TO KNOW IT'S BEEN IN TH' LOUVRE SINCE TH' EARLY 1900'S!
BE NICE, GRIFFY!
MORE!


ZIPPY
"CUBA LIBRE, POR FAVOR"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY & GRIFFY STROLL ALONG TH' MALECON, ON HAVANA'S WATERFRONT..
HOLÁ, BOYS! YOU'RE CUTE! WOULD YOU LIKE TO BUY ME DINNER?
SURE! BUT TH' NEAREST CURLY FRIES ARE 90 MILES AWAY, IN MIAMI BEACH!
JEEZ, A COMMUNIST HOOKER! *
*"JINETERA" IN CUBA, LITERALLY A "JOCKEY".
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TAKE ME TO TH' FLORIDITA WHERE HEMINGWAY DRANK, AND THEN SHOPPING! ARE YOU BOTH FROM CANADA??
OKAY! WE COULD DISCUSS "THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA" & THEN PURCHASE CIGARS!
WELL, I COULD USE A DAIQUIRI..
LATER..
THAT WAS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED! SHE DID JUST WANT TO DISCUSS HEMINGWAY & GO SHOPPING! PLUS, SHE HAD A DEGREE IN ENGINEERING!
I ENJOYED IT! I'VE NEVER FELT SO COMPLETELY-- .. CANADIAN!!
I HAVE A COUSIN IN NEW JERSEY.. COULD YOU TAKE HIM THIS LETTER?
LA CUNA DEL DAIQUI
I NOTICED THAT THE BARTENDER AT THE FLORIDITA WORE BOTH CHE GUEVARA & PLAYBOY PINS ON HIS VEST.
3-21
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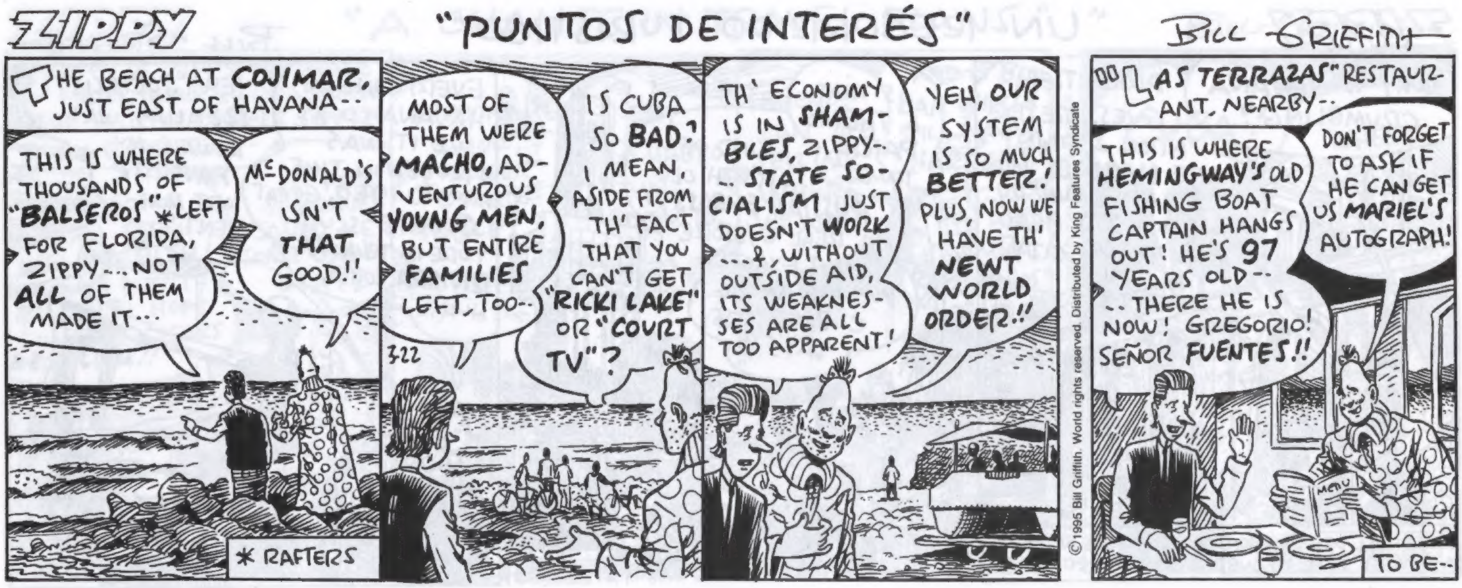
ZIPPY
"PUNTOS DE INTERÉS"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE BEACH AT COJIMAR, JUST EAST OF HAVANA..
THIS IS WHERE THOUSANDS OF "BALSEROS"* LEFT FOR FLORIDA, ZIPPY... NOT ALL OF THEM MADE IT...
McDONALD'S ISN'T THAT GOOD!!
* RAFTERS
MOST OF THEM WERE MACHO, ADVENTUROUS YOUNG MEN, BUT ENTIRE FAMILIES LEFT, TOO..
IS CUBA SO BAD? I MEAN, ASIDE FROM TH' FACT THAT YOU CAN'T GET "RICKI LAKE" OR "COURT TV"?
3-22
TH' ECONOMY IS IN SHAMBLES, ZIPPY.. .. STATE SOCIALISM JUST DOESN'T WORK ... &, WITHOUT OUTSIDE AID, ITS WEAKNESSES ARE ALL TOO APPARENT!
YEH, OUR SYSTEM IS SO MUCH BETTER! PLUS, NOW WE HAVE TH' NEWT WORLD ORDER!!
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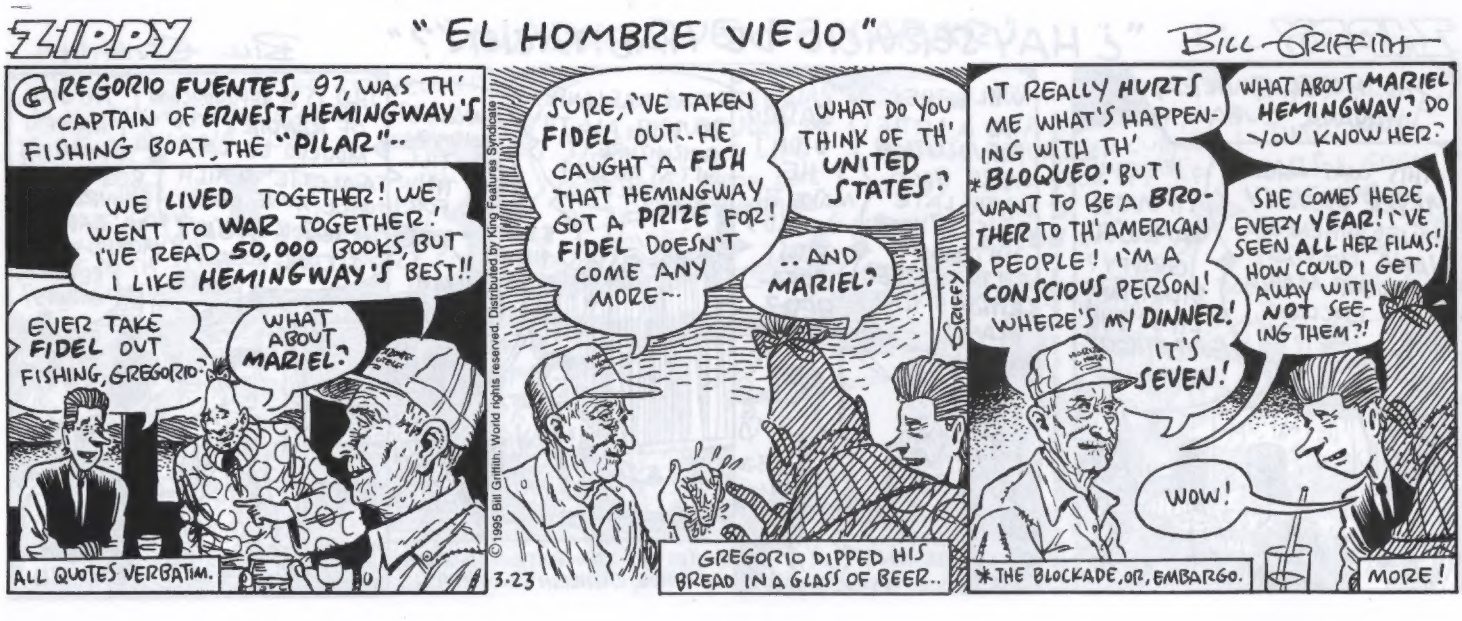
"LAS TERRAZAS" RESTAURANT, NEARBY..
THIS IS WHERE HEMINGWAY'S OLD FISHING BOAT CAPTAIN HANGS OUT! HE'S 97 YEARS OLD-- .. THERE HE IS NOW! GREGORIO! SEÑOR FUENTES!!
DON'T FORGET TO ASK IF HE CAN GET US MARIEL'S AUTOGRAPH!
MENU
TO BE--


ZIPPY
"EL HOMBRE VIEJO"
BILL GRIFFITH
GREGORIO FUENTES, 97, WAS TH' CAPTAIN OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S FISHING BOAT, THE "PILAR"..
WE LIVED TOGETHER! WE WENT TO WAR TOGETHER! I'VE READ 50,000 BOOKS, BUT I LIKE HEMINGWAY'S BEST!!
EVER TAKE FIDEL OUT FISHING, GREGORIO?
WHAT ABOUT MARIEL?
ALL QUOTES VERBATIM.
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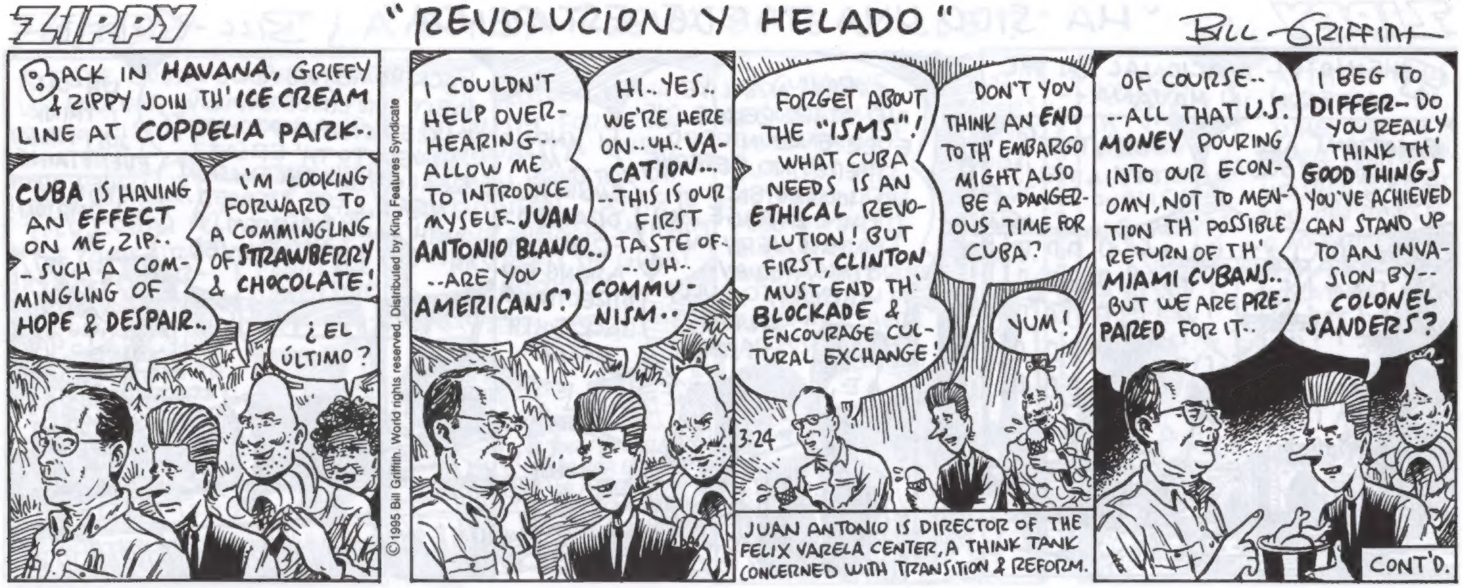
SURE, I'VE TAKEN FIDEL OUT.. HE CAUGHT A FISH THAT HEMINGWAY GOT A PRIZE FOR! FIDEL DOESN'T COME ANY MORE..
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TH' UNITED STATES?
.. AND MARIEL?
GRIFFY
GREGORIO DIPPED HIS BREAD IN A GLASS OF BEER..
3-23
IT REALLY HURTS ME WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH TH' *BLOQUEO! BUT I WANT TO BE A BROTHER TO TH' AMERICAN PEOPLE! I'M A CONSCIOUS PERSON! WHERE'S MY DINNER!
IT'S SEVEN!
WHAT ABOUT MARIEL HEMINGWAY? DO YOU KNOW HER?
SHE COMES HERE EVERY YEAR! I'VE SEEN ALL HER FILMS! HOW COULD I GET AWAY WITH NOT SEEING THEM?!
WOW!
*THE BLOCKADE, OR, EMBARGO.
MORE!


ZIPPY
"REVOLUCION Y HELADO"
BILL GRIFFITH
BACK IN HAVANA, GRIFFY & ZIPPY JOIN TH' ICE CREAM LINE AT COPPELIA PARK..
CUBA IS HAVING AN EFFECT ON ME, ZIP.. ..SUCH A COMMINGLING OF HOPE & DESPAIR..
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A COMMINGLING OF STRAWBERRY & CHOCOLATE!
¿EL ÚLTIMO?
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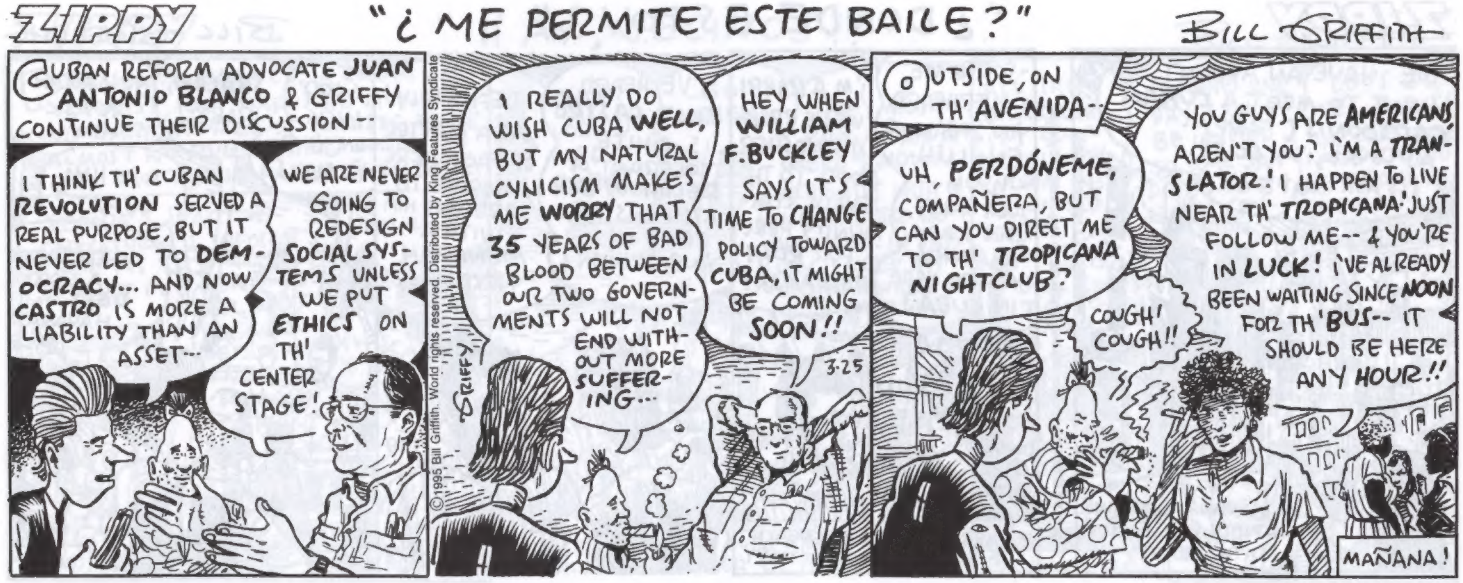
I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING.. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.. JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO.. ..ARE YOU AMERICANS?
HI.. YES.. WE'RE HERE ON.. UH.. VACATION... ..THIS IS OUR FIRST TASTE OF.. ..UH.. COMMUNISM..
FORGET ABOUT THE "ISMS"! WHAT CUBA NEEDS IS AN ETHICAL REVOLUTION! BUT FIRST, CLINTON MUST END TH' BLOCKADE & ENCOURAGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE!
DON'T YOU THINK AN END TO TH' EMBARGO MIGHT ALSO BE A DANGEROUS TIME FOR CUBA?
YUM!
3-24
JUAN ANTONIO IS DIRECTOR OF THE FELIX VARELA CENTER, A THINK TANK CONCERNED WITH TRANSITION & REFORM.
OF COURSE.. ..ALL THAT U.S. MONEY POURING INTO OUR ECONOMY, NOT TO MENTION TH' POSSIBLE RETURN OF TH' MIAMI CUBANS.. BUT WE ARE PREPARED FOR IT..
I BEG TO DIFFER-- DO YOU REALLY THINK TH' GOOD THINGS YOU'VE ACHIEVED CAN STAND UP TO AN INVASION BY-- COLONEL SANDERS?
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"¿ME PERMITE ESTE BAILE?"
BILL GRIFFITH
CUBAN REFORM ADVOCATE JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO & GRIFFY CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION--
I THINK TH' CUBAN REVOLUTION SERVED A REAL PURPOSE, BUT IT NEVER LED TO DEMOCRACY... AND NOW CASTRO IS MORE A LIABILITY THAN AN ASSET...
WE ARE NEVER GOING TO REDESIGN SOCIAL SYSTEMS UNLESS WE PUT ETHICS ON TH' CENTER STAGE!
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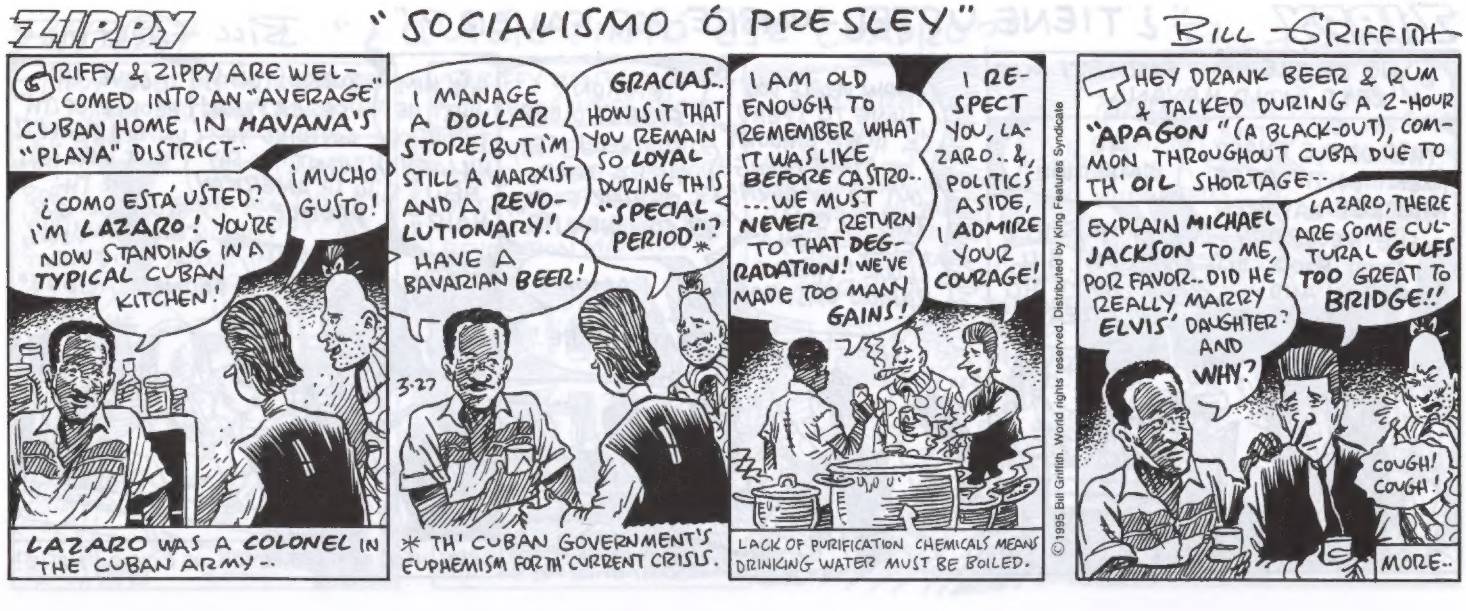
I REALLY DO WISH CUBA WELL, BUT MY NATURAL CYNICISM MAKES ME WORRY THAT 35 YEARS OF BAD BLOOD BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL NOT END WITHOUT MORE SUFFERING...
HEY, WHEN WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY SAYS IT'S TIME TO CHANGE POLICY TOWARD CUBA, IT MIGHT BE COMING SOON!!
GRIFFY
3-25
OUTSIDE, ON TH' AVENIDA--
UH, PERDÓNEME, COMPAÑERA, BUT CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO TH' TROPICANA NIGHTCLUB?
COUGH! COUGH!!
YOU GUYS ARE AMERICANS, AREN'T YOU? I'M A TRANSLATOR! I HAPPEN TO LIVE NEAR TH' TROPICANA! JUST FOLLOW ME-- & YOU'RE IN LUCK! I'VE ALREADY BEEN WAITING SINCE NOON FOR TH' BUS-- IT SHOULD BE HERE ANY HOUR!!
MAÑANA!


ZIPPY
"SOCIALISMO Ó PRESLEY"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY & ZIPPY ARE WELCOMED INTO AN "AVERAGE" CUBAN HOME IN HAVANA'S "PLAYA" DISTRICT--
¿COMO ESTÁ USTED? I'M LAZARO! YOU'RE NOW STANDING IN A TYPICAL CUBAN KITCHEN!
¡MUCHO GUSTO!
LAZARO WAS A COLONEL IN THE CUBAN ARMY--
I MANAGE A DOLLAR STORE, BUT I'M STILL A MARXIST AND A REVOLUTIONARY! HAVE A BAVARIAN BEER!
GRACIAS.. HOW IS IT THAT YOU REMAIN SO LOYAL DURING THIS "SPECIAL PERIOD"?*
3-27
* TH' CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S EUPHEMISM FOR TH' CURRENT CRISIS.
I AM OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE CASTRO.. ...WE MUST NEVER RETURN TO THAT DEGRADATION! WE'VE MADE TOO MANY GAINS!
I RESPECT YOU, LAZARO.. &, POLITICS ASIDE, I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE!
LACK OF PURIFICATION CHEMICALS MEANS DRINKING WATER MUST BE BOILED.
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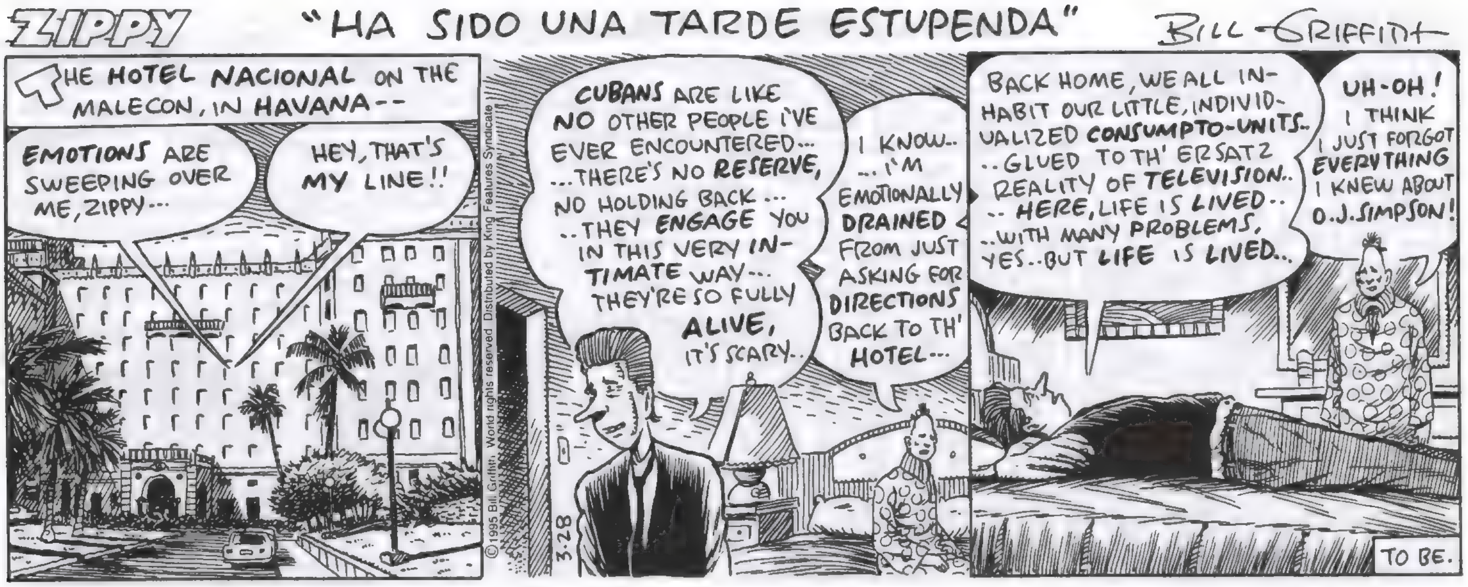
THEY DRANK BEER & RUM & TALKED DURING A 2-HOUR "APAGON" (A BLACK-OUT), COMMON THROUGHOUT CUBA DUE TO TH' OIL SHORTAGE--
EXPLAIN MICHAEL JACKSON TO ME, POR FAVOR.. DID HE REALLY MARRY ELVIS' DAUGHTER? AND WHY?
LAZARO, THERE ARE SOME CULTURAL GULFS TOO GREAT TO BRIDGE!!
COUGH! COUGH!
MORE..


ZIPPY
"HA SIDO UNA TARDE ESTUPENDA"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE HOTEL NACIONAL ON THE MALECON, IN HAVANA--
EMOTIONS ARE SWEEPING OVER ME, ZIPPY...
HEY, THAT'S MY LINE!!
CUBANS ARE LIKE NO OTHER PEOPLE I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED... ...THERE'S NO RESERVE, NO HOLDING BACK... ..THEY ENGAGE YOU IN THIS VERY INTIMATE WAY... THEY'RE SO FULLY ALIVE, IT'S SCARY..
I KNOW.. ...I'M EMOTIONALLY DRAINED FROM JUST ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS BACK TO TH' HOTEL...
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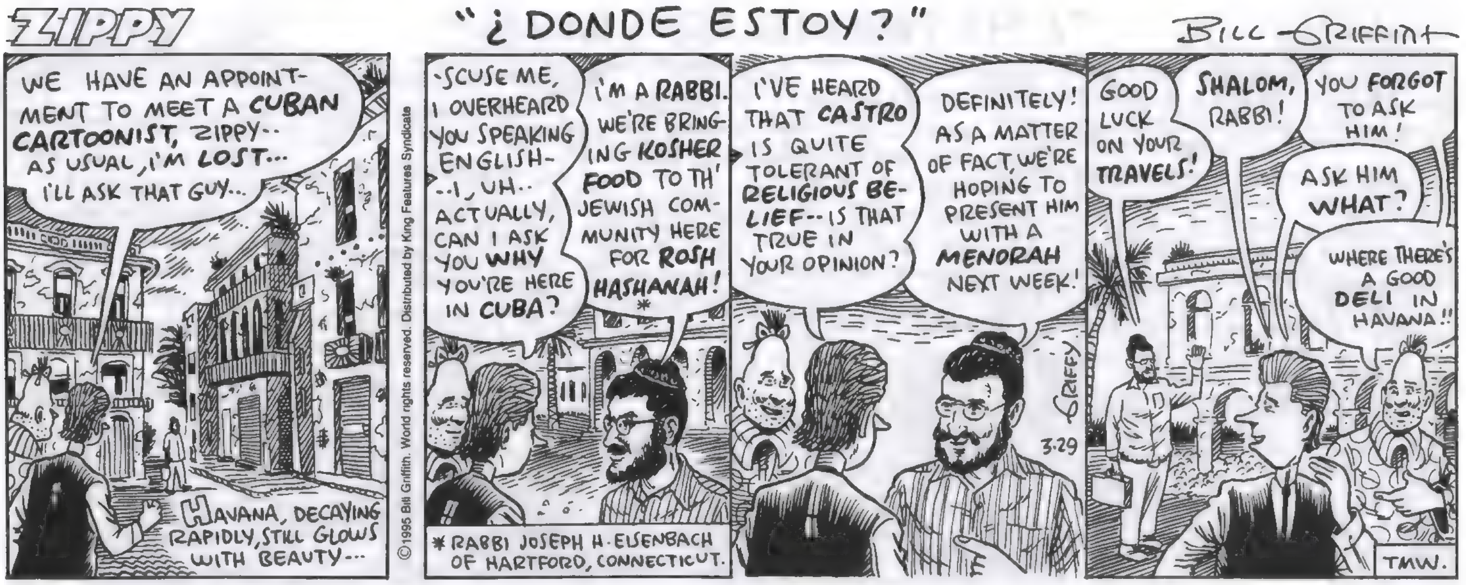
3.28
BACK HOME, WE ALL INHABIT OUR LITTLE, INDIVIDUALIZED CONSUMPTO-UNITS.. ..GLUED TO TH' ERSATZ REALITY OF TELEVISION.. ..HERE, LIFE IS LIVED.. ..WITH MANY PROBLEMS, YES..BUT LIFE IS LIVED...
UH-OH! I THINK I JUST FORGOT EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT O.J. SIMPSON!
TO BE.


ZIPPY
"¿DONDE ESTOY?"
BILL GRIFFITH
WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET A CUBAN CARTOONIST, ZIPPY.. AS USUAL, I'M LOST... I'LL ASK THAT GUY...
HAVANA, DECAYING RAPIDLY, STILL GLOWS WITH BEAUTY...
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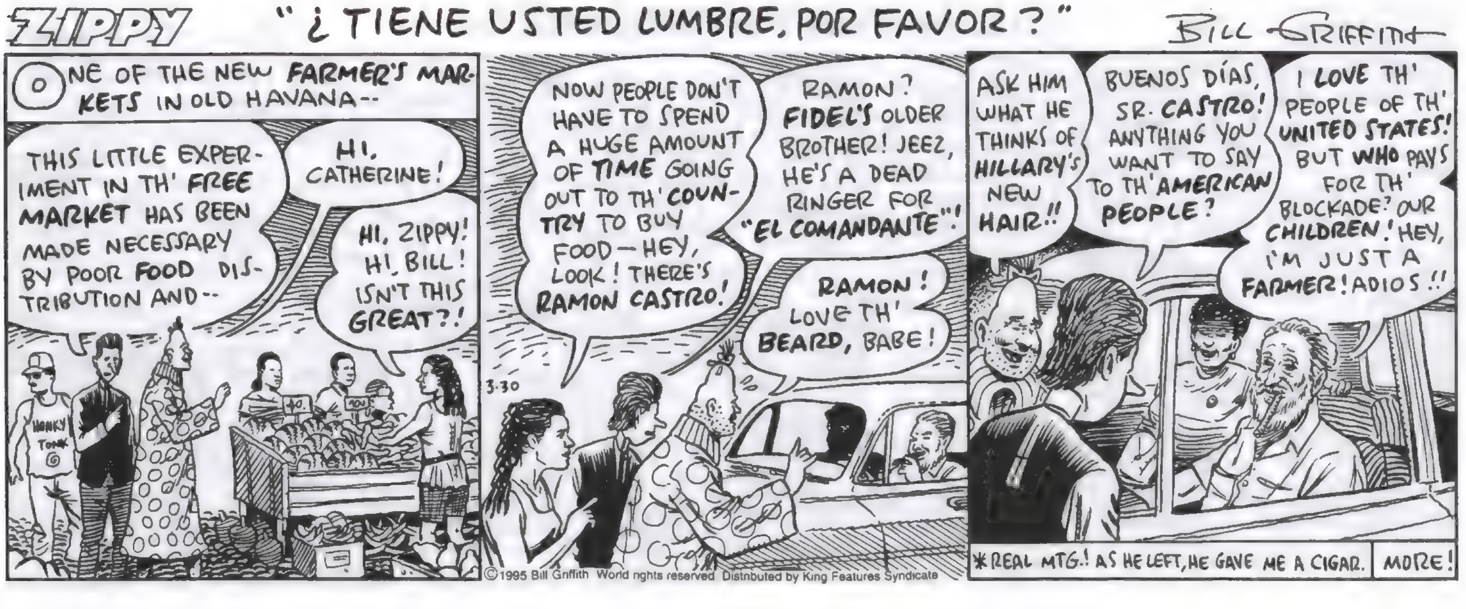
-SCUSE ME, I OVERHEARD YOU SPEAKING ENGLISH- --I, UH.. ACTUALLY, CAN I ASK YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE IN CUBA?
I'M A RABBI. WE'RE BRINGING KOSHER FOOD TO TH' JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE FOR ROSH HASHANAH! *
* RABBI JOSEPH H. EISENBACH OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.
I'VE HEARD THAT CASTRO IS QUITE TOLERANT OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF--IS THAT TRUE IN YOUR OPINION?
DEFINITELY! AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE'RE HOPING TO PRESENT HIM WITH A MENORAH NEXT WEEK!
GRIFFY
3.29
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRAVELS!
SHALOM, RABBI!
YOU FORGOT TO ASK HIM!
ASK HIM WHAT?
WHERE THERE'S A GOOD DELI IN HAVANA!!
TMW.


ZIPPY
"¿TIENE USTED LUMBRE, POR FAVOR?"
BILL GRIFFITH
ONE OF THE NEW FARMER'S MARKETS IN OLD HAVANA--
THIS LITTLE EXPERIMENT IN TH' FREE MARKET HAS BEEN MADE NECESSARY BY POOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND--
HI, CATHERINE!
HI, ZIPPY! HI, BILL! ISN'T THIS GREAT?!
HONKY TONK
NOW PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO SPEND A HUGE AMOUNT OF TIME GOING OUT TO TH' COUNTRY TO BUY FOOD--HEY, LOOK! THERE'S RAMON CASTRO!
RAMON? FIDEL'S OLDER BROTHER! JEEZ, HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR "EL COMANDANTE"!
RAMON! LOVE TH' BEARD, BABE!
3.30
ASK HIM WHAT HE THINKS OF HILLARY'S NEW HAIR!!
BUENOS DÍAS, SR. CASTRO! ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY TO TH' AMERICAN PEOPLE?
I LOVE TH' PEOPLE OF TH' UNITED STATES! BUT WHO PAYS FOR TH' BLOCKADE? OUR CHILDREN! HEY, I'M JUST A FARMER! ADIOS!!
*REAL MTG.! AS HE LEFT, HE GAVE ME A CIGAR.
MORE!
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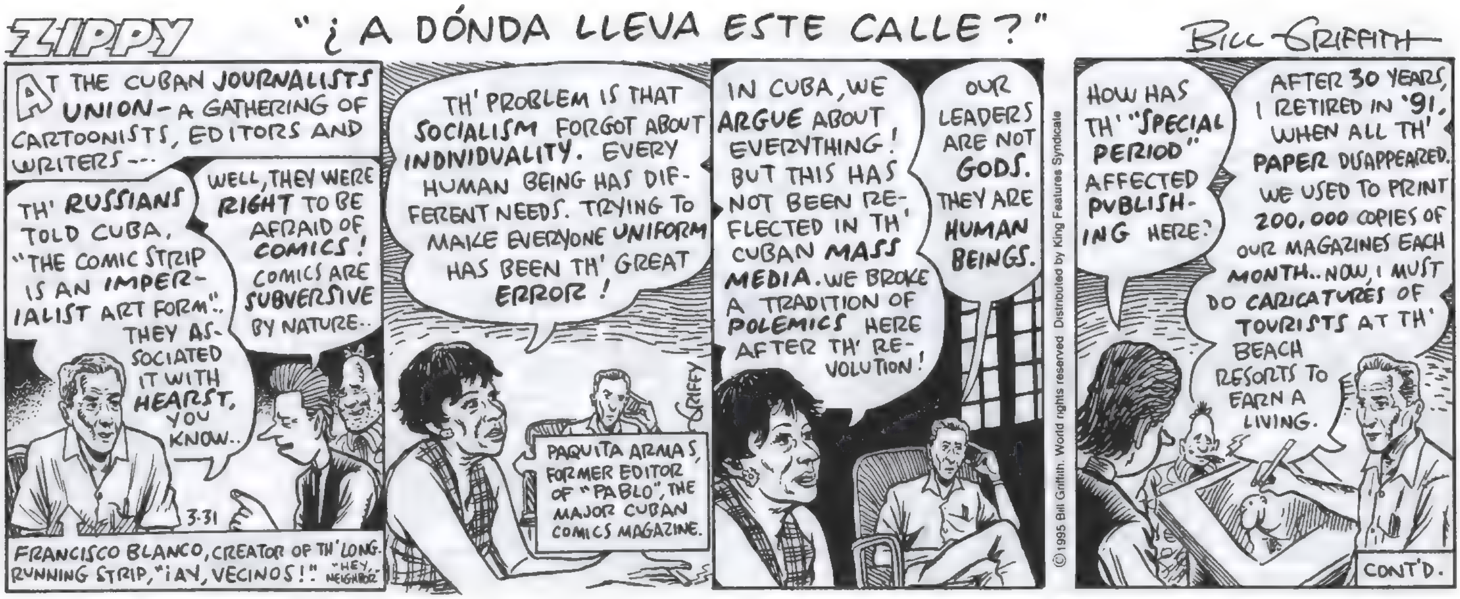
ZIPPY
"¿A DÓNDA LLEVA ESTE CALLE?"
BILL GRIFFITH
AT THE CUBAN JOURNALISTS UNION - A GATHERING OF CARTOONISTS, EDITORS AND WRITERS---.
TH' RUSSIANS TOLD CUBA, "THE COMIC STRIP IS AN IMPERIALIST ART FORM".. THEY ASSOCIATED IT WITH HEARST, YOU KNOW..
WELL, THEY WERE RIGHT TO BE AFRAID OF COMICS! COMICS ARE SUBVERSIVE BY NATURE..
3-31
FRANCISCO BLANCO, CREATOR OF TH' LONG-RUNNING STRIP, "¡AY, VECINOS!" "HEY, NEIGHBOR"
TH' PROBLEM IS THAT SOCIALISM FORGOT ABOUT INDIVIDUALITY. EVERY HUMAN BEING HAS DIFFERENT NEEDS. TRYING TO MAKE EVERYONE UNIFORM HAS BEEN TH' GREAT ERROR!
GRIFFY
PAQUITA ARMAS, FORMER EDITOR OF "PABLO", THE MAJOR CUBAN COMICS MAGAZINE.
IN CUBA, WE ARGUE ABOUT EVERYTHING! BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN REFLECTED IN TH' CUBAN MASS MEDIA. WE BROKE A TRADITION OF POLEMICS HERE AFTER TH' REVOLUTION!
OUR LEADERS ARE NOT GODS. THEY ARE HUMAN BEINGS.
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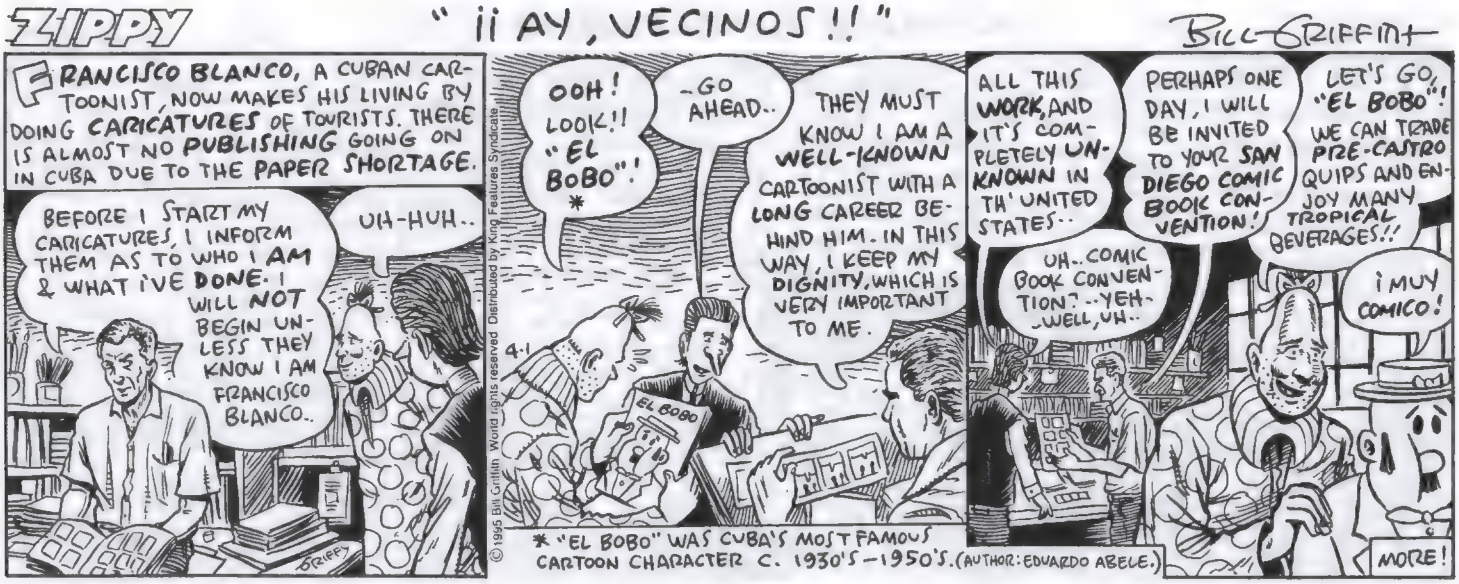
HOW HAS TH' "SPECIAL PERIOD" AFFECTED PUBLISHING HERE?
AFTER 30 YEARS, I RETIRED IN '91, WHEN ALL TH' PAPER DISAPPEARED. WE USED TO PRINT 200,000 COPIES OF OUR MAGAZINES EACH MONTH.. NOW, I MUST DO CARICATURES OF TOURISTS AT TH' BEACH RESORTS TO EARN A LIVING.
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"¡¡AY, VECINOS!!"
BILL GRIFFITH
FRANCISCO BLANCO, A CUBAN CARTOONIST, NOW MAKES HIS LIVING BY DOING CARICATURES OF TOURISTS. THERE IS ALMOST NO PUBLISHING GOING ON IN CUBA DUE TO THE PAPER SHORTAGE.
BEFORE I START MY CARICATURES, I INFORM THEM AS TO WHO I AM & WHAT I'VE DONE. I WILL NOT BEGIN UNLESS THEY KNOW I AM FRANCISCO BLANCO..
UH-HUH..
GRIFFY
OOH! LOOK!! "EL BOBO"! *
-GO AHEAD..
THEY MUST KNOW I AM A WELL-KNOWN CARTOONIST WITH A LONG CAREER BEHIND HIM. IN THIS WAY, I KEEP MY DIGNITY, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
4-1
EL BOBO
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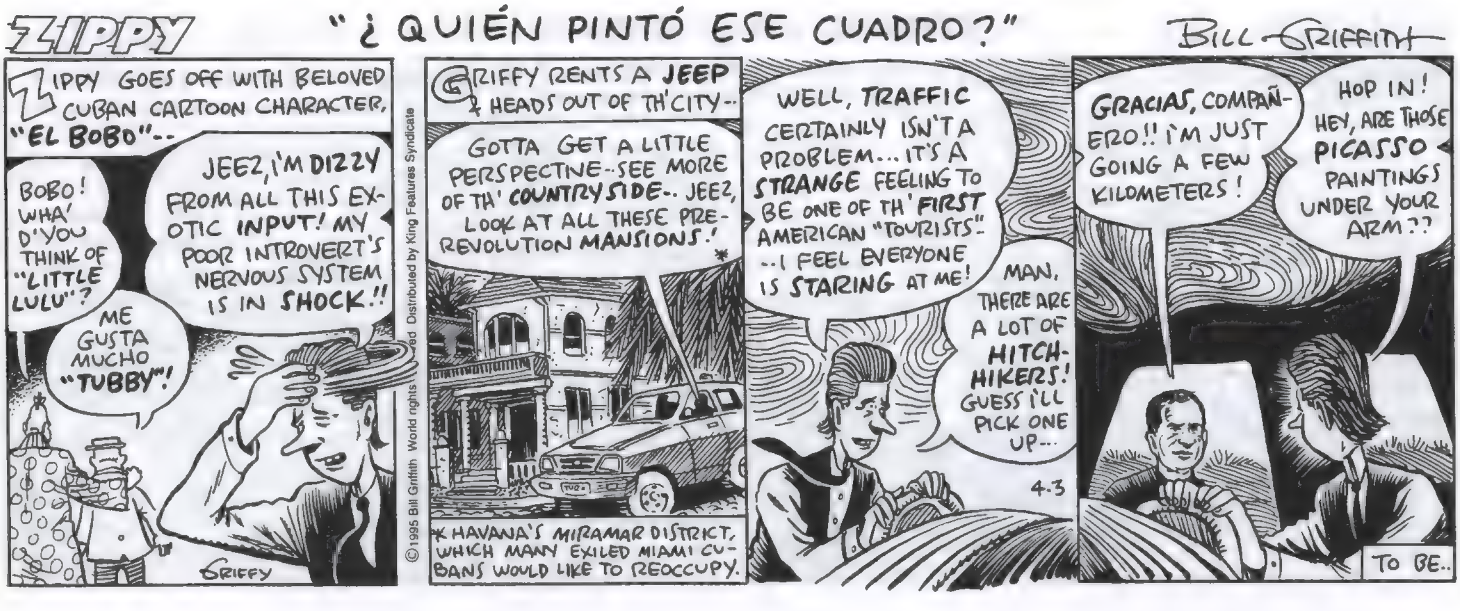
* "EL BOBO" WAS CUBA'S MOST FAMOUS CARTOON CHARACTER C. 1930'S-1950'S. (AUTHOR: EDUARDO ABELE.)
ALL THIS WORK, AND IT'S COMPLETELY UNKNOWN IN TH' UNITED STATES..
PERHAPS ONE DAY, I WILL BE INVITED TO YOUR SAN DIEGO COMIC BOOK CONVENTION!
UH.. COMIC BOOK CONVENTION? --YEH-- WELL, UH..
LET'S GO, "EL BOBO"! WE CAN TRADE PRE-CASTRO QUIPS AND ENJOY MANY TROPICAL BEVERAGES!!
¡MUY COMICO!
MORE!


ZIPPY
"¿QUIÉN PINTÓ ESE CUADRO?"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY GOES OFF WITH BELOVED CUBAN CARTOON CHARACTER, "EL BOBO"..
BOBO! WHA' D'YOU THINK OF "LITTLE LULU"?
ME GUSTA MUCHO "TUBBY"!
JEEZ, I'M DIZZY FROM ALL THIS EXOTIC INPUT! MY POOR INTROVERT'S NERVOUS SYSTEM IS IN SHOCK!!
GRIFFY
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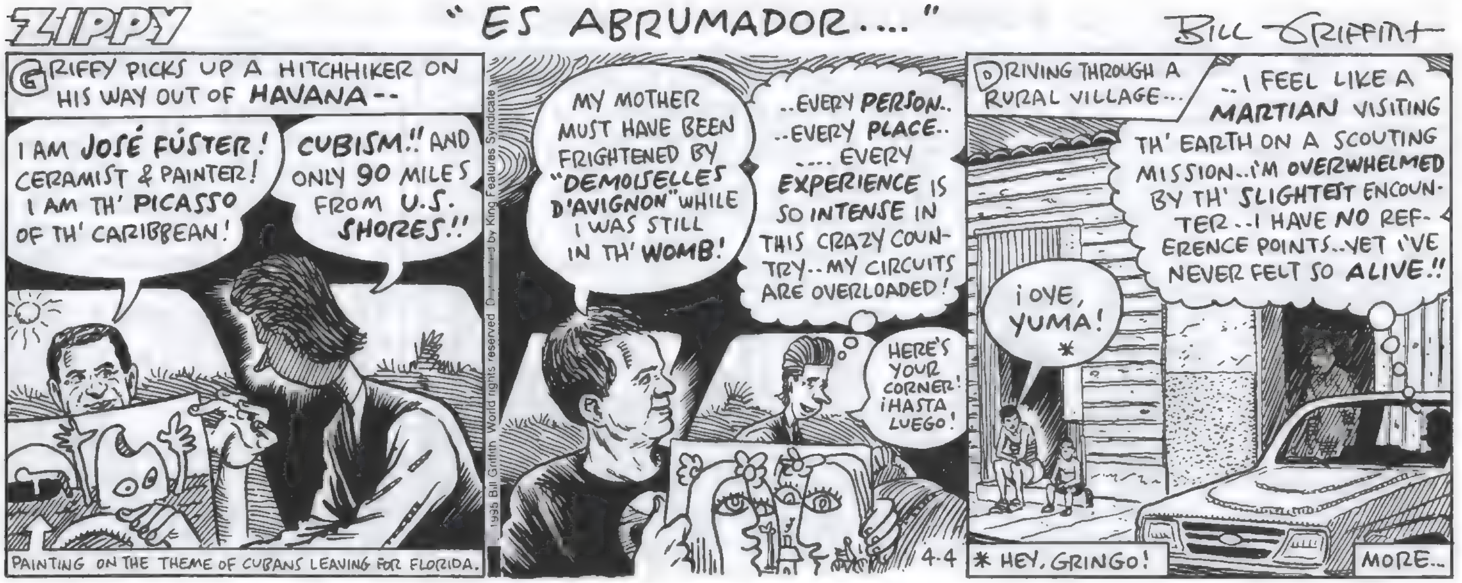
GRIFFY RENTS A JEEP & HEADS OUT OF TH' CITY..
GOTTA GET A LITTLE PERSPECTIVE..SEE MORE OF TH' COUNTRYSIDE.. JEEZ, LOOK AT ALL THESE PRE-REVOLUTION MANSIONS! *
* HAVANA'S MIRAMAR DISTRICT, WHICH MANY EXILED MIAMI CUBANS WOULD LIKE TO REOCCUPY.
WELL, TRAFFIC CERTAINLY ISN'T A PROBLEM... IT'S A STRANGE FEELING TO BE ONE OF TH' FIRST AMERICAN "TOURISTS".. --I FEEL EVERYONE IS STARING AT ME!
MAN, THERE ARE A LOT OF HITCHHIKERS! GUESS I'LL PICK ONE UP..
4-3
GRACIAS, COMPAÑERO!! I'M JUST GOING A FEW KILOMETERS!
HOP IN! HEY, ARE THOSE PICASSO PAINTINGS UNDER YOUR ARM??
TO BE..


ZIPPY
"ES ABRUMADOR...."
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY PICKS UP A HITCHHIKER ON HIS WAY OUT OF HAVANA--
I AM JOSÉ FÚSTER! CERAMIST & PAINTER! I AM TH' PICASSO OF TH' CARIBBEAN!
CUBISM!! AND ONLY 90 MILES FROM U.S. SHORES!!
PAINTING ON THE THEME OF CUBANS LEAVING FOR FLORIDA.
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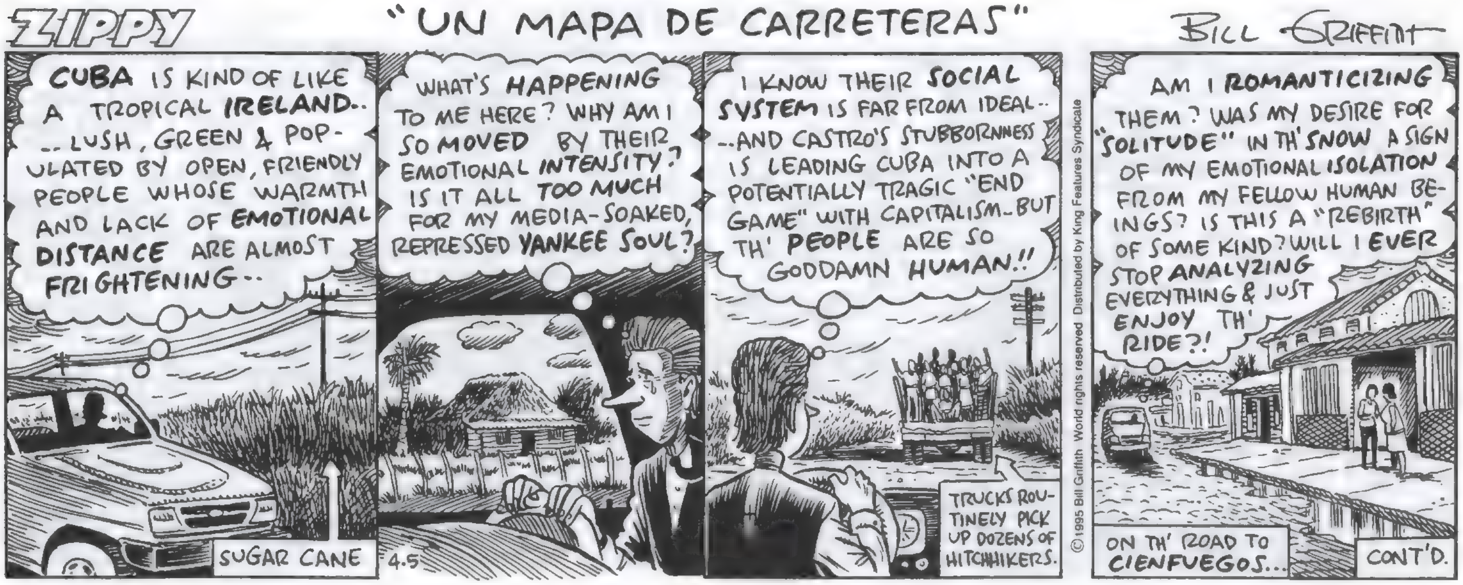
MY MOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY "DEMOISELLES D'AVIGNON" WHILE I WAS STILL IN TH' WOMB!
..EVERY PERSON.. ..EVERY PLACE.. .... EVERY EXPERIENCE IS SO INTENSE IN THIS CRAZY COUNTRY.. MY CIRCUITS ARE OVERLOADED!
HERE'S YOUR CORNER! ¡HASTA LUEGO!
4-4
DRIVING THROUGH A RURAL VILLAGE...
..I FEEL LIKE A MARTIAN VISITING TH' EARTH ON A SCOUTING MISSION..I'M OVERWHELMED BY TH' SLIGHTEST ENCOUNTER..I HAVE NO REFERENCE POINTS..YET I'VE NEVER FELT SO ALIVE!!
¡OYE, YUMA! *
* HEY, GRINGO!
MORE..


ZIPPY
"UN MAPA DE CARRETERAS"
BILL GRIFFITH
CUBA IS KIND OF LIKE A TROPICAL IRELAND.. ..LUSH, GREEN & POPULATED BY OPEN, FRIENDLY PEOPLE WHOSE WARMTH AND LACK OF EMOTIONAL DISTANCE ARE ALMOST FRIGHTENING..
SUGAR CANE
4-5
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME HERE? WHY AM I SO MOVED BY THEIR EMOTIONAL INTENSITY? IS IT ALL TOO MUCH FOR MY MEDIA-SOAKED, REPRESSED YANKEE SOUL?
I KNOW THEIR SOCIAL SYSTEM IS FAR FROM IDEAL.. ..AND CASTRO'S STUBBORNNESS IS LEADING CUBA INTO A POTENTIALLY TRAGIC "END GAME" WITH CAPITALISM..BUT TH' PEOPLE ARE SO GODDAMN HUMAN!!
TRUCKS ROUTINELY PICK UP DOZENS OF HITCHHIKERS.
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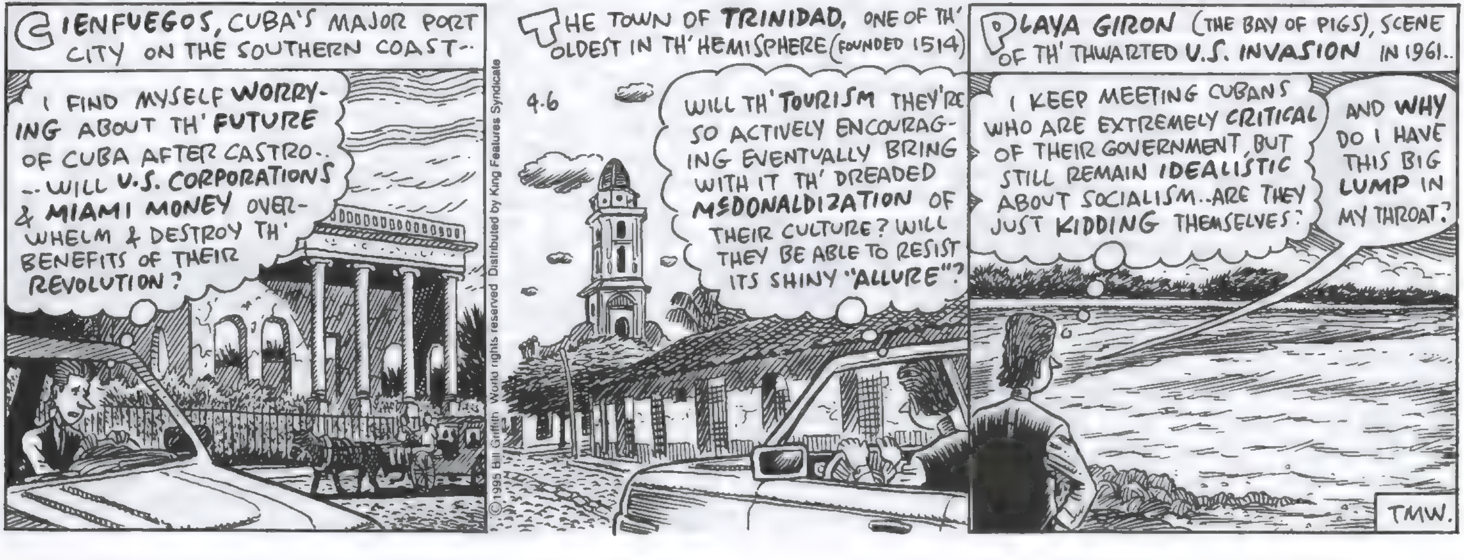
AM I ROMANTICIZING THEM? WAS MY DESIRE FOR "SOLITUDE" IN TH' SNOW A SIGN OF MY EMOTIONAL ISOLATION FROM MY FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS? IS THIS A "REBIRTH" OF SOME KIND? WILL I EVER STOP ANALYZING EVERYTHING & JUST ENJOY TH' RIDE?!
ON TH' ROAD TO CIENFUEGOS...
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"ESPECIALIDAD LOCAL"
BILL GRIFFITH
CIENFUEGOS, CUBA'S MAJOR PORT CITY ON THE SOUTHERN COAST--
I FIND MYSELF WORRYING ABOUT TH' FUTURE OF CUBA AFTER CASTRO.. ..WILL U.S. CORPORATIONS & MIAMI MONEY OVERWHELM & DESTROY TH' BENEFITS OF THEIR REVOLUTION?
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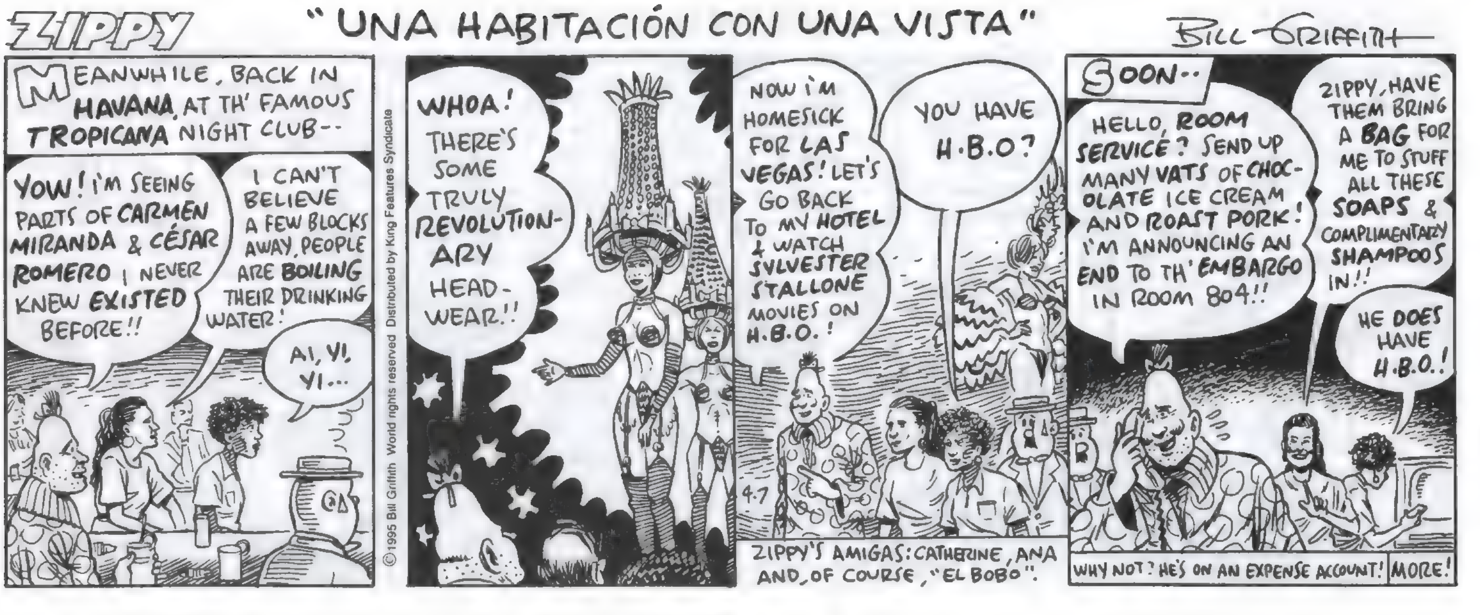
THE TOWN OF TRINIDAD, ONE OF TH' OLDEST IN TH' HEMISPHERE (FOUNDED 1514)
4-6
WILL TH' TOURISM THEY'RE SO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING EVENTUALLY BRING WITH IT TH' DREADED MCDONALDIZATION OF THEIR CULTURE? WILL THEY BE ABLE TO RESIST ITS SHINY "ALLURE"?
PLAYA GIRON (THE BAY OF PIGS), SCENE OF TH' THWARTED U.S. INVASION IN 1961..
I KEEP MEETING CUBANS WHO ARE EXTREMELY CRITICAL OF THEIR GOVERNMENT, BUT STILL REMAIN IDEALISTIC ABOUT SOCIALISM..ARE THEY JUST KIDDING THEMSELVES?
AND WHY DO I HAVE THIS BIG LUMP IN MY THROAT?
TMW.


ZIPPY
"UNA HABITACIÓN CON UNA VISTA"
BILL GRIFFITH
MEANWHILE, BACK IN HAVANA, AT TH' FAMOUS TROPICANA NIGHT CLUB--
YOW! I'M SEEING PARTS OF CARMEN MIRANDA & CÉSAR ROMERO I NEVER KNEW EXISTED BEFORE!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, PEOPLE ARE BOILING THEIR DRINKING WATER!
AI, YI, YI...
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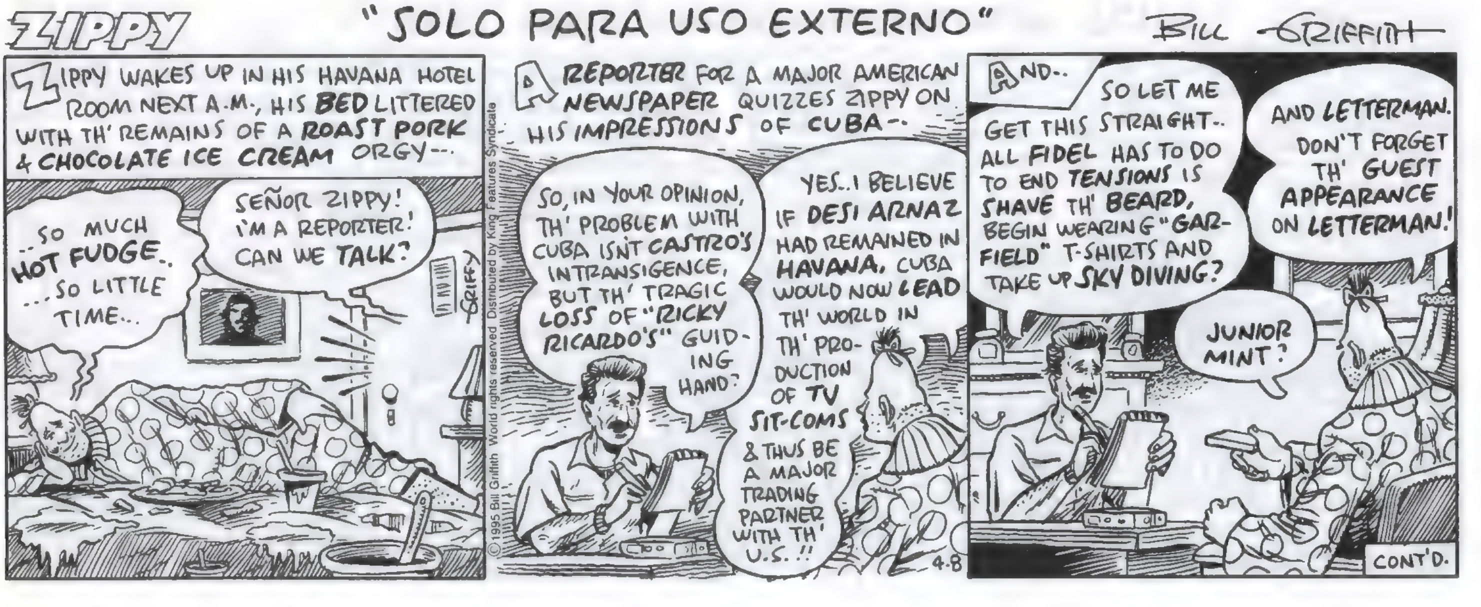
WHOA! THERE'S SOME TRULY REVOLUTIONARY HEADWEAR!!
NOW I'M HOMESICK FOR LAS VEGAS! LET'S GO BACK TO MY HOTEL & WATCH SYLVESTER STALLONE MOVIES ON H.B.O.!
YOU HAVE H.B.O.?
4-7
ZIPPY'S AMIGAS: CATHERINE, ANA AND, OF COURSE, "EL BOBO".
SOON..
HELLO, ROOM SERVICE? SEND UP MANY VATS OF CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM AND ROAST PORK! I'M ANNOUNCING AN END TO TH' EMBARGO IN ROOM 804!!
ZIPPY, HAVE THEM BRING A BAG FOR ME TO STUFF ALL THESE SOAPS & COMPLIMENTARY SHAMPOOS IN!!
HE DOES HAVE H.B.O.!
WHY NOT? HE'S ON AN EXPENSE ACCOUNT!
MORE!


ZIPPY
"SOLO PARA USO EXTERNO"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY WAKES UP IN HIS HAVANA HOTEL ROOM NEXT A.M., HIS BED LITTERED WITH TH' REMAINS OF A ROAST PORK & CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM ORGY--.
..SO MUCH HOT FUDGE.. ...SO LITTLE TIME..
SEÑOR ZIPPY! I'M A REPORTER! CAN WE TALK?
GRIFFY
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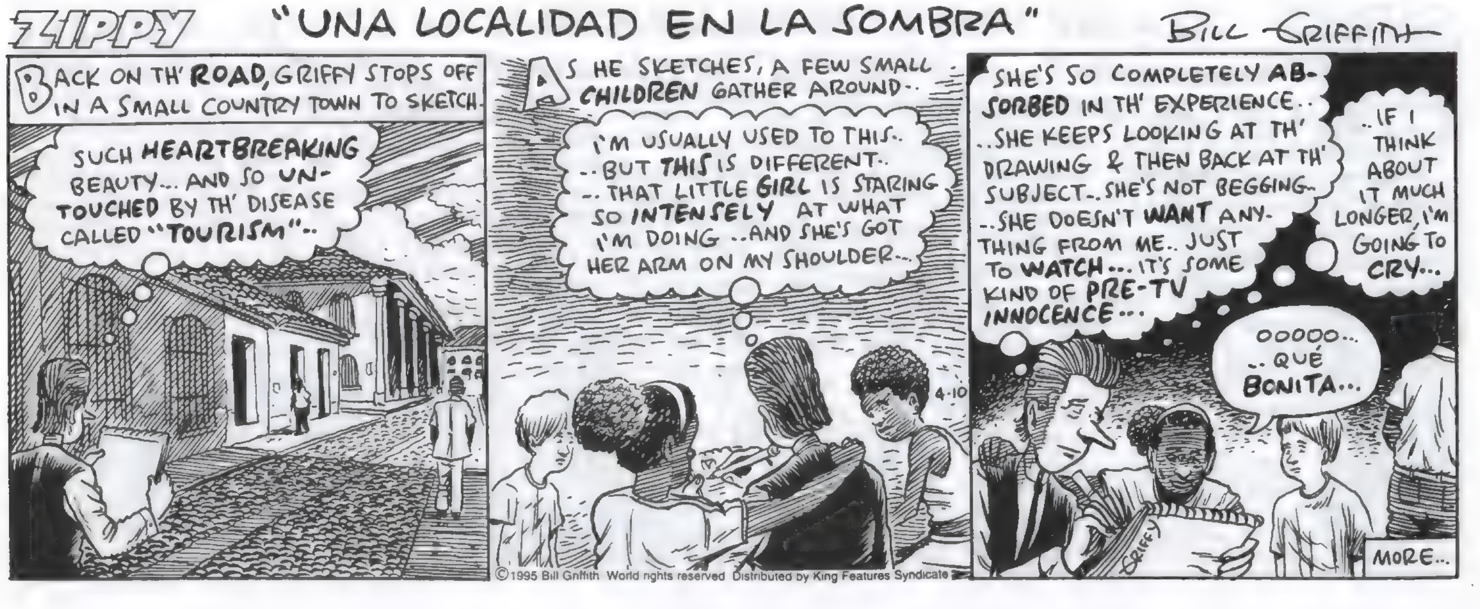
A REPORTER FOR A MAJOR AMERICAN NEWSPAPER QUIZZES ZIPPY ON HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CUBA--
SO, IN YOUR OPINION, TH' PROBLEM WITH CUBA ISN'T CASTRO'S INTRANSIGENCE, BUT TH' TRAGIC LOSS OF "RICKY RICARDO'S" GUIDING HAND?
YES..I BELIEVE IF DESI ARNAZ HAD REMAINED IN HAVANA, CUBA WOULD NOW LEAD TH' WORLD IN TH' PRODUCTION OF TV SIT-COMS & THUS BE A MAJOR TRADING PARTNER WITH TH' U.S.!!
4-8
AND..
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.. ALL FIDEL HAS TO DO TO END TENSIONS IS SHAVE TH' BEARD, BEGIN WEARING "GARFIELD" T-SHIRTS AND TAKE UP SKY DIVING?
AND LETTERMAN. DON'T FORGET TH' GUEST APPEARANCE ON LETTERMAN!
JUNIOR MINT?
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"UNA LOCALIDAD EN LA SOMBRA"
BILL GRIFFITH
BACK ON TH' ROAD, GRIFFY STOPS OFF IN A SMALL COUNTRY TOWN TO SKETCH.
SUCH HEARTBREAKING BEAUTY... AND SO UNTOUCHED BY TH' DISEASE CALLED "TOURISM"..
AS HE SKETCHES, A FEW SMALL CHILDREN GATHER AROUND..
I'M USUALLY USED TO THIS.. ..BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT.. ..THAT LITTLE GIRL IS STARING SO INTENSELY AT WHAT I'M DOING ..AND SHE'S GOT HER ARM ON MY SHOULDER..
4-10
SHE'S SO COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN TH' EXPERIENCE.. ..SHE KEEPS LOOKING AT TH' DRAWING & THEN BACK AT TH' SUBJECT..SHE'S NOT BEGGING.. ..SHE DOESN'T WANT ANYTHING FROM ME.. JUST TO WATCH... IT'S SOME KIND OF PRE-TV INNOCENCE...
..IF I THINK ABOUT IT MUCH LONGER, I'M GOING TO CRY...
OOOOO... ..QUÉ BONITA...
GRIFFY
MORE...
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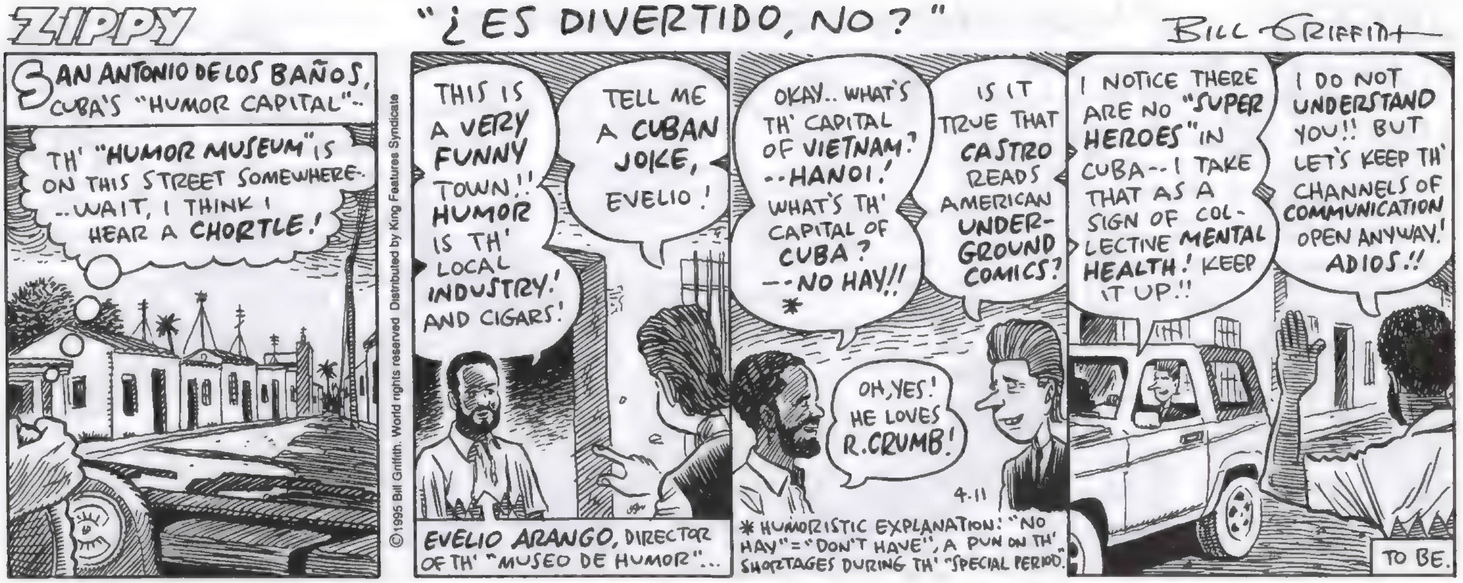
ZIPPY
"¿ES DIVERTIDO, NO?"
BILL GRIFFITH
SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BAÑOS, CUBA'S "HUMOR CAPITAL"--
TH' "HUMOR MUSEUM" IS ON THIS STREET SOMEWHERE-- --WAIT, I THINK I HEAR A CHORTLE!
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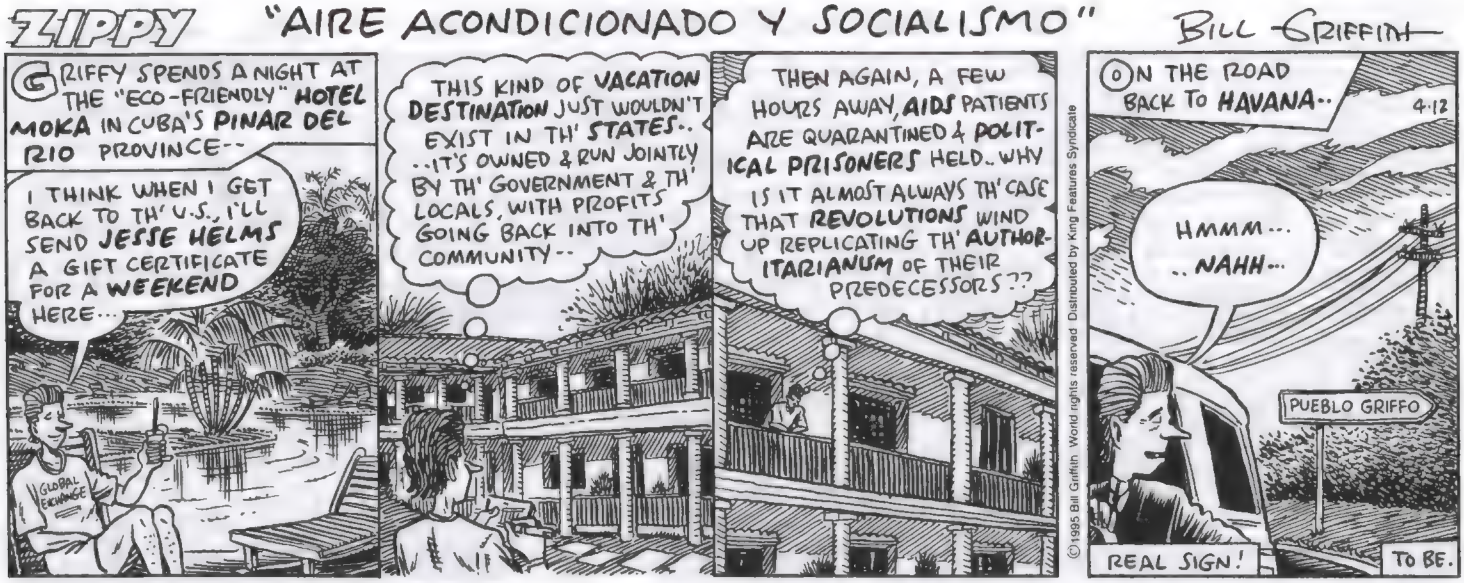
THIS IS A VERY FUNNY TOWN!! HUMOR IS TH' LOCAL INDUSTRY! AND CIGARS!
TELL ME A CUBAN JOKE, EVELIO!
EVELIO ARANGO, DIRECTOR OF TH' "MUSEO DE HUMOR"...
OKAY.. WHAT'S TH' CAPITAL OF VIETNAM? --HANOI! WHAT'S TH' CAPITAL OF CUBA? --NO HAY!! *
IS IT TRUE THAT CASTRO READS AMERICAN UNDERGROUND COMICS?
OH, YES! HE LOVES R. CRUMB!
4.11
* HUMORISTIC EXPLANATION: "NO HAY" = "DON'T HAVE", A PUN ON TH' SHORTAGES DURING TH' "SPECIAL PERIOD."
I NOTICE THERE ARE NO "SUPER HEROES" IN CUBA-- I TAKE THAT AS A SIGN OF COLLECTIVE MENTAL HEALTH! KEEP IT UP!!
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOU!! BUT LET'S KEEP TH' CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION OPEN ANYWAY! ADIOS!!
TO BE.


ZIPPY
"AIRE ACONDICIONADO Y SOCIALISMO"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY SPENDS A NIGHT AT THE "ECO-FRIENDLY" HOTEL MOKA IN CUBA'S PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE--
I THINK WHEN I GET BACK TO TH' U.S., I'LL SEND JESSE HELMS A GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR A WEEKEND HERE...
GLOBAL EXCHANGE
THIS KIND OF VACATION DESTINATION JUST WOULDN'T EXIST IN TH' STATES.. ..IT'S OWNED & RUN JOINTLY BY TH' GOVERNMENT & TH' LOCALS, WITH PROFITS GOING BACK INTO TH' COMMUNITY--
THEN AGAIN, A FEW HOURS AWAY, AIDS PATIENTS ARE QUARANTINED & POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD.. WHY IS IT ALMOST ALWAYS TH' CASE THAT REVOLUTIONS WIND UP REPLICATING TH' AUTHORITARIANISM OF THEIR PREDECESSORS??
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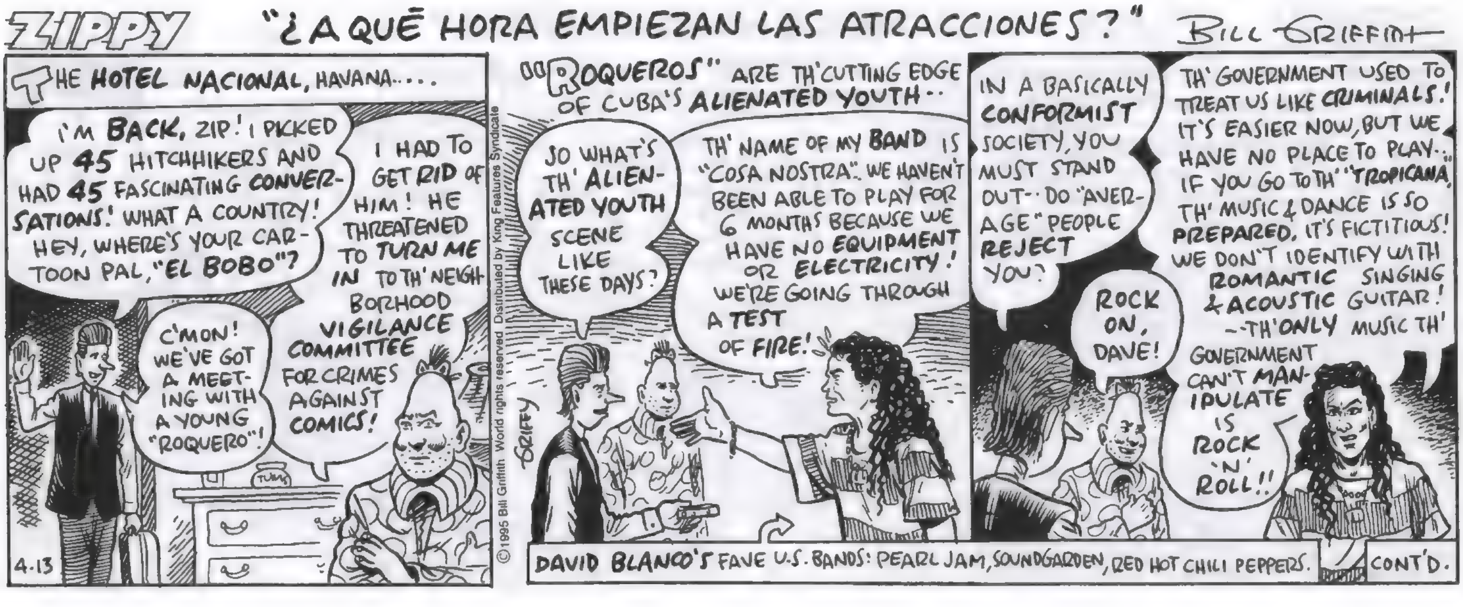
ON THE ROAD BACK TO HAVANA..
4.12
HMMM... ..NAHH...
PUEBLO GRIFFO
REAL SIGN!
TO BE.


ZIPPY
"¿A QUÉ HORA EMPIEZAN LAS ATRACCIONES?"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE HOTEL NACIONAL, HAVANA.....
I'M BACK, ZIP! I PICKED UP 45 HITCHHIKERS AND HAD 45 FASCINATING CONVERSATIONS! WHAT A COUNTRY! HEY, WHERE'S YOUR CARTOON PAL, "EL BOBO"?
I HAD TO GET RID OF HIM! HE THREATENED TO TURN ME IN TO TH' NEIGHBORHOOD VIGILANCE COMMITTEE FOR CRIMES AGAINST COMICS!
C'MON! WE'VE GOT A MEETING WITH A YOUNG "ROQUERO"!
TUMS
4.13
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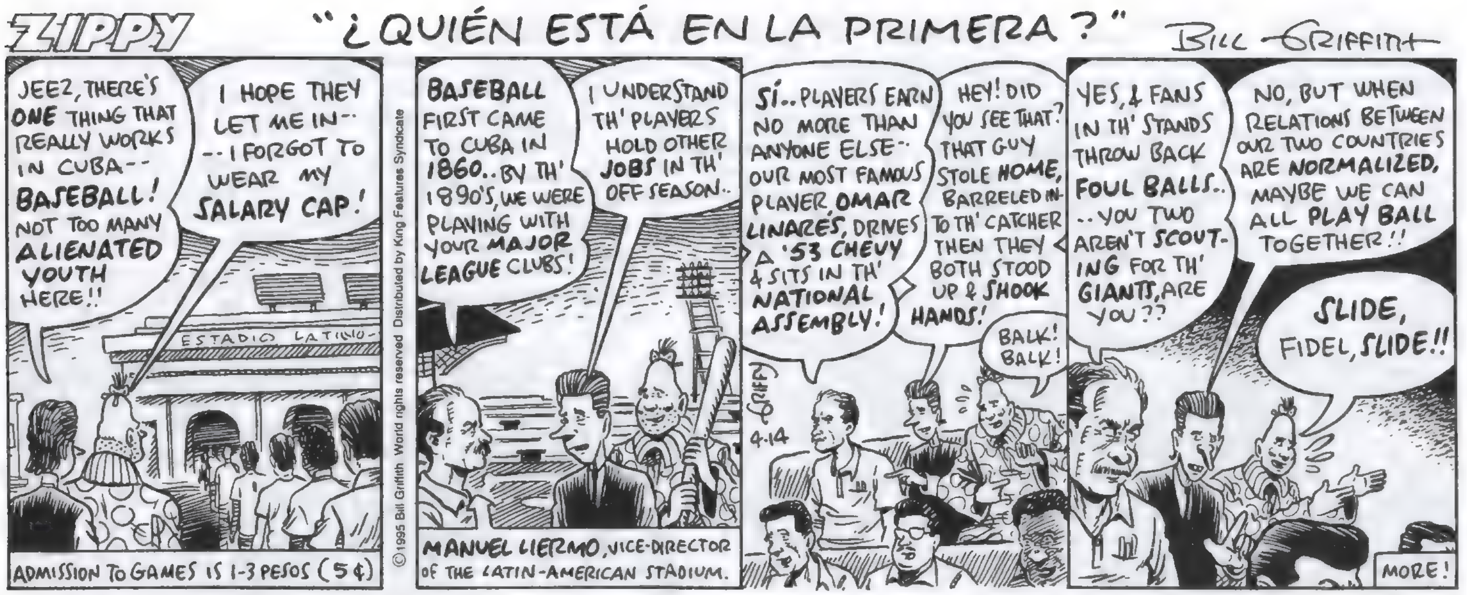
"ROQUEROS" ARE TH' CUTTING EDGE OF CUBA'S ALIENATED YOUTH..
SO WHAT'S TH' ALIENATED YOUTH SCENE LIKE THESE DAYS?
TH' NAME OF MY BAND IS "COSA NOSTRA". WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PLAY FOR 6 MONTHS BECAUSE WE HAVE NO EQUIPMENT OR ELECTRICITY! WE'RE GOING THROUGH A TEST OF FIRE!
GRIFFY
DAVID BLANCO'S FAVE U.S. BANDS: PEARL JAM, SOUNDGARDEN, RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS.
IN A BASICALLY CONFORMIST SOCIETY, YOU MUST STAND OUT.. DO "AVERAGE" PEOPLE REJECT YOU?
ROCK ON, DAVE!
TH' GOVERNMENT USED TO TREAT US LIKE CRIMINALS! IT'S EASIER NOW, BUT WE HAVE NO PLACE TO PLAY.. IF YOU GO TO TH' "TROPICANA," TH' MUSIC & DANCE IS SO PREPARED, IT'S FICTITIOUS! WE DON'T IDENTIFY WITH ROMANTIC SINGING & ACOUSTIC GUITAR! --TH' ONLY MUSIC TH' GOVERNMENT CAN'T MANIPULATE IS ROCK 'N' ROLL!!
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"¿QUIÉN ESTÁ EN LA PRIMERA?"
BILL GRIFFITH
JEEZ, THERE'S ONE THING THAT REALLY WORKS IN CUBA-- BASEBALL! NOT TOO MANY ALIENATED YOUTH HERE!!
I HOPE THEY LET ME IN-- --I FORGOT TO WEAR MY SALARY CAP!
ESTADIO LATINO
ADMISSION TO GAMES IS 1-3 PESOS (5¢)
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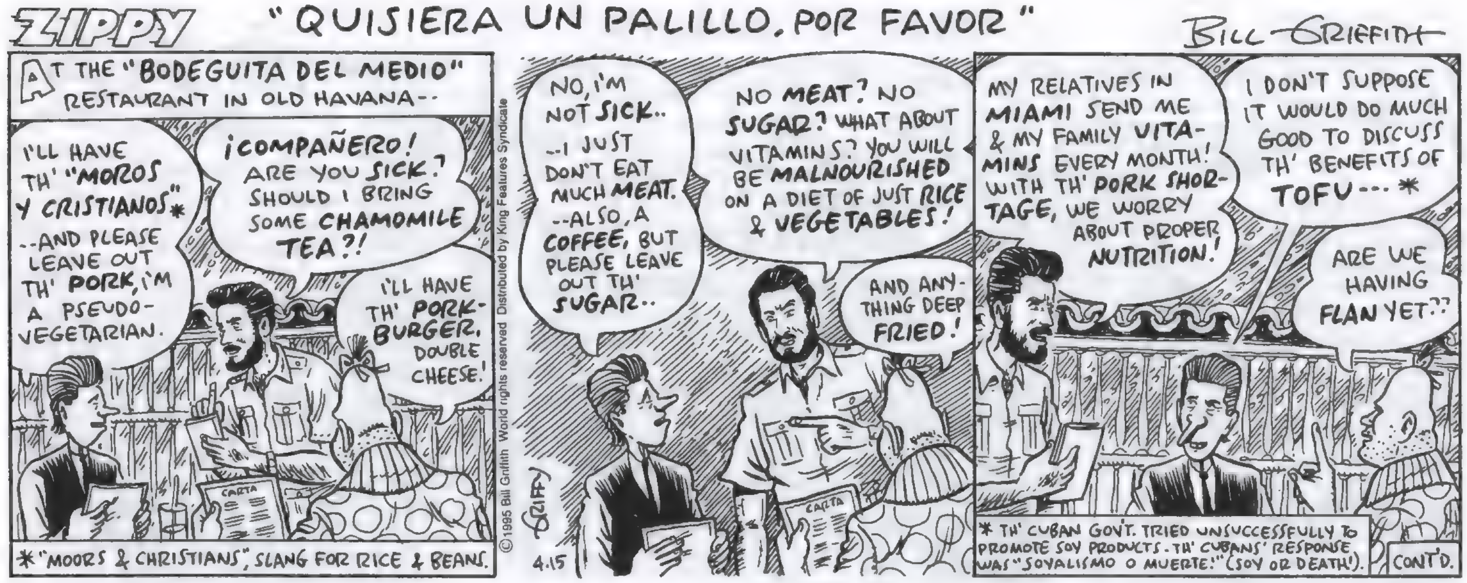
BASEBALL FIRST CAME TO CUBA IN 1860.. BY TH' 1890'S, WE WERE PLAYING WITH YOUR MAJOR LEAGUE CLUBS!
I UNDERSTAND TH' PLAYERS HOLD OTHER JOBS IN TH' OFF SEASON..
MANUEL LIERMO, VICE-DIRECTOR OF THE LATIN-AMERICAN STADIUM.
SÍ.. PLAYERS EARN NO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE-- OUR MOST FAMOUS PLAYER, OMAR LINARES, DRIVES A '53 CHEVY & SITS IN TH' NATIONAL ASSEMBLY!
HEY! DID YOU SEE THAT? THAT GUY STOLE HOME, BARRELED IN TO TH' CATCHER THEN THEY BOTH STOOD UP & SHOOK HANDS!
BALK! BALK!
GRIFFY
4-14
YES, & FANS IN TH' STANDS THROW BACK FOUL BALLS.. ..YOU TWO AREN'T SCOUTING FOR TH' GIANTS, ARE YOU??
NO, BUT WHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE NORMALIZED, MAYBE WE CAN ALL PLAY BALL TOGETHER!!
SLIDE, FIDEL, SLIDE!!
MORE!


ZIPPY
"QUISIERA UN PALILLO, POR FAVOR"
BILL GRIFFITH
AT THE "BODEGUITA DEL MEDIO" RESTAURANT IN OLD HAVANA--
I'LL HAVE TH' "MOROS Y CRISTIANOS"* --AND PLEASE LEAVE OUT TH' PORK, I'M A PSEUDO-VEGETARIAN.
¡COMPAÑERO! ARE YOU SICK? SHOULD I BRING SOME CHAMOMILE TEA?!
I'LL HAVE TH' PORK-BURGER. DOUBLE CHEESE!
CARTA
* "MOORS & CHRISTIANS", SLANG FOR RICE & BEANS.
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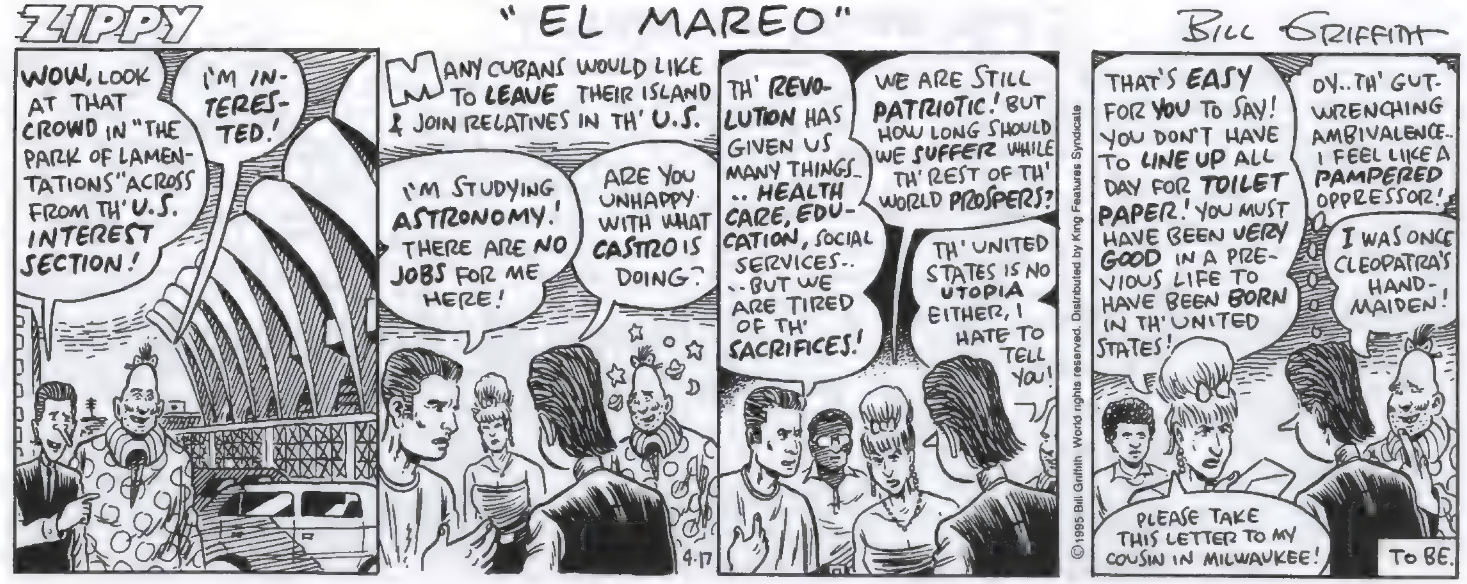
NO, I'M NOT SICK.. --I JUST DON'T EAT MUCH MEAT. --ALSO, A COFFEE, BUT PLEASE LEAVE OUT TH' SUGAR..
NO MEAT? NO SUGAR? WHAT ABOUT VITAMINS? YOU WILL BE MALNOURISHED ON A DIET OF JUST RICE & VEGETABLES!
AND ANYTHING DEEP FRIED!
GRIFFY
4-15
MY RELATIVES IN MIAMI SEND ME & MY FAMILY VITAMINS EVERY MONTH! WITH TH' PORK SHORTAGE, WE WORRY ABOUT PROPER NUTRITION!
I DON'T SUPPOSE IT WOULD DO MUCH GOOD TO DISCUSS TH' BENEFITS OF TOFU---*
ARE WE HAVING FLAN YET??
* TH' CUBAN GOV'T. TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PROMOTE SOY PRODUCTS. TH' CUBANS' RESPONSE WAS "SOYALISMO O MUERTE!" (SOY OR DEATH!).
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"EL MAREO"
BILL GRIFFITH
WOW, LOOK AT THAT CROWD IN "THE PARK OF LAMENTATIONS" ACROSS FROM TH' U.S. INTEREST SECTION!
I'M INTERESTED!
MANY CUBANS WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THEIR ISLAND & JOIN RELATIVES IN TH' U.S.
I'M STUDYING ASTRONOMY! THERE ARE NO JOBS FOR ME HERE!
ARE YOU UNHAPPY WITH WHAT CASTRO IS DOING?
4-17
TH' REVOLUTION HAS GIVEN US MANY THINGS.. ..HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES.. ..BUT WE ARE TIRED OF TH' SACRIFICES!
WE ARE STILL PATRIOTIC! BUT HOW LONG SHOULD WE SUFFER WHILE TH' REST OF TH' WORLD PROSPERS?
TH' UNITED STATES IS NO UTOPIA EITHER, I HATE TO TELL YOU!
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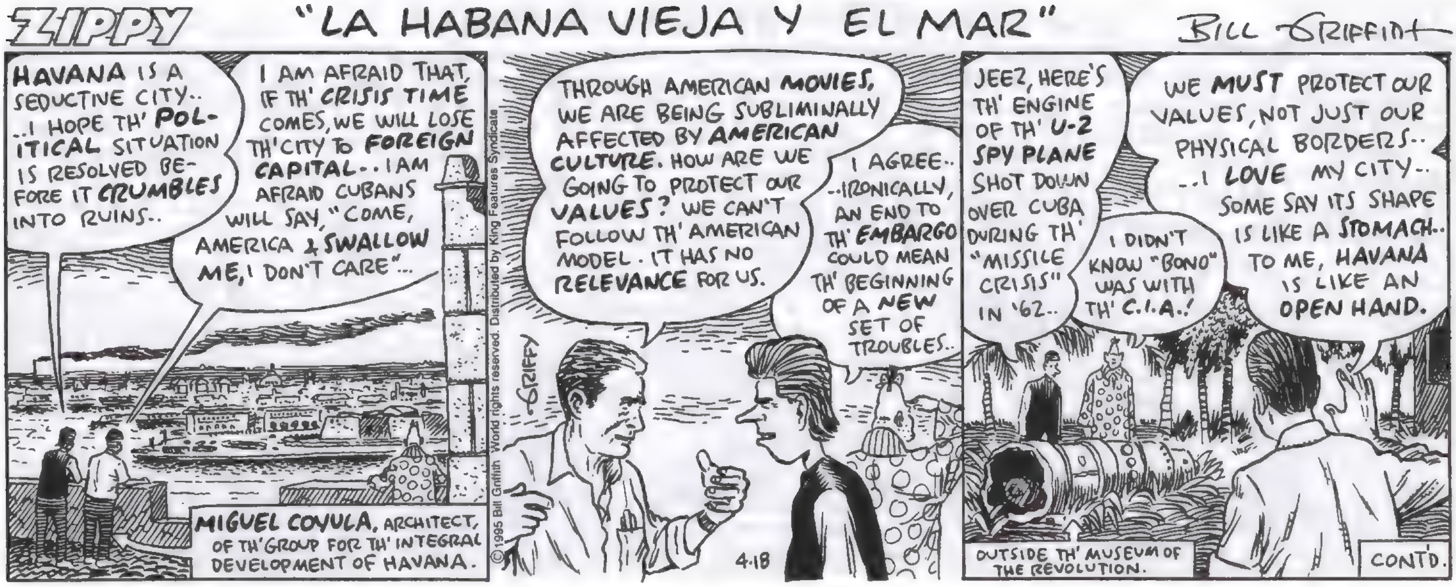
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOU DON'T HAVE TO LINE UP ALL DAY FOR TOILET PAPER! YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VERY GOOD IN A PREVIOUS LIFE TO HAVE BEEN BORN IN TH' UNITED STATES!
OY.. TH' GUT-WRENCHING AMBIVALENCE.. I FEEL LIKE A PAMPERED OPPRESSOR!
I WAS ONCE CLEOPATRA'S HANDMAIDEN!
PLEASE TAKE THIS LETTER TO MY COUSIN IN MILWAUKEE!
TO BE.


ZIPPY
"LA HABANA VIEJA Y EL MAR"
BILL GRIFFITH
HAVANA IS A SEDUCTIVE CITY.. ..I HOPE TH' POLITICAL SITUATION IS RESOLVED BEFORE IT CRUMBLES INTO RUINS..
I AM AFRAID THAT, IF TH' CRISIS TIME COMES, WE WILL LOSE TH' CITY TO FOREIGN CAPITAL.. I AM AFRAID CUBANS WILL SAY, "COME, AMERICA & SWALLOW ME, I DON'T CARE"...
MIGUEL COVULA, ARCHITECT, OF TH' GROUP FOR TH' INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAVANA.
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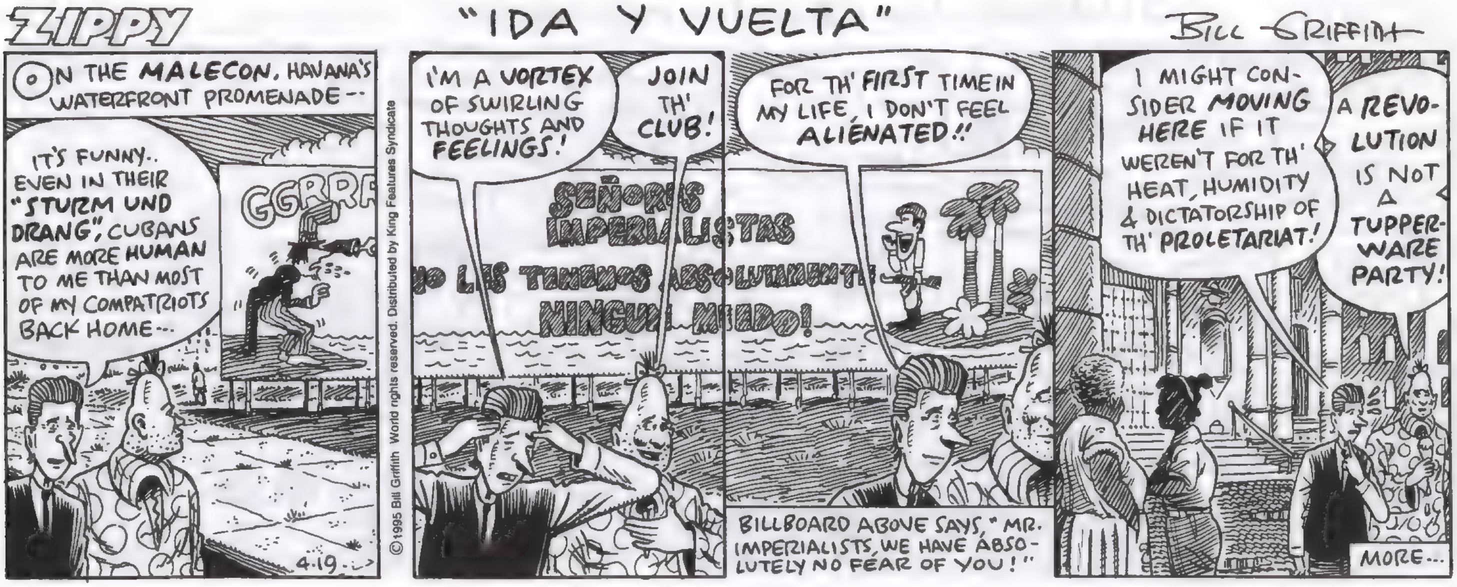
GRIFFY
THROUGH AMERICAN MOVIES, WE ARE BEING SUBLIMINALLY AFFECTED BY AMERICAN CULTURE. HOW ARE WE GOING TO PROTECT OUR VALUES? WE CAN'T FOLLOW TH' AMERICAN MODEL. IT HAS NO RELEVANCE FOR US.
I AGREE.. ..IRONICALLY, AN END TO TH' EMBARGO COULD MEAN TH' BEGINNING OF A NEW SET OF TROUBLES..
4.18
JEEZ, HERE'S TH' ENGINE OF TH' U-2 SPY PLANE SHOT DOWN OVER CUBA DURING TH' "MISSILE CRISIS" IN '62..
I DIDN'T KNOW "BONO" WAS WITH TH' C.I.A.!
WE MUST PROTECT OUR VALUES, NOT JUST OUR PHYSICAL BORDERS.. ..I LOVE MY CITY.. SOME SAY ITS SHAPE IS LIKE A STOMACH.. TO ME, HAVANA IS LIKE AN OPEN HAND.
OUTSIDE TH' MUSEUM OF THE REVOLUTION.
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"IDA Y VUELTA"
BILL GRIFFITH
ON THE MALECON, HAVANA'S WATERFRONT PROMENADE--
IT'S FUNNY.. EVEN IN THEIR "STURM UND DRANG", CUBANS ARE MORE HUMAN TO ME THAN MOST OF MY COMPATRIOTS BACK HOME--
GGRRR
4.19
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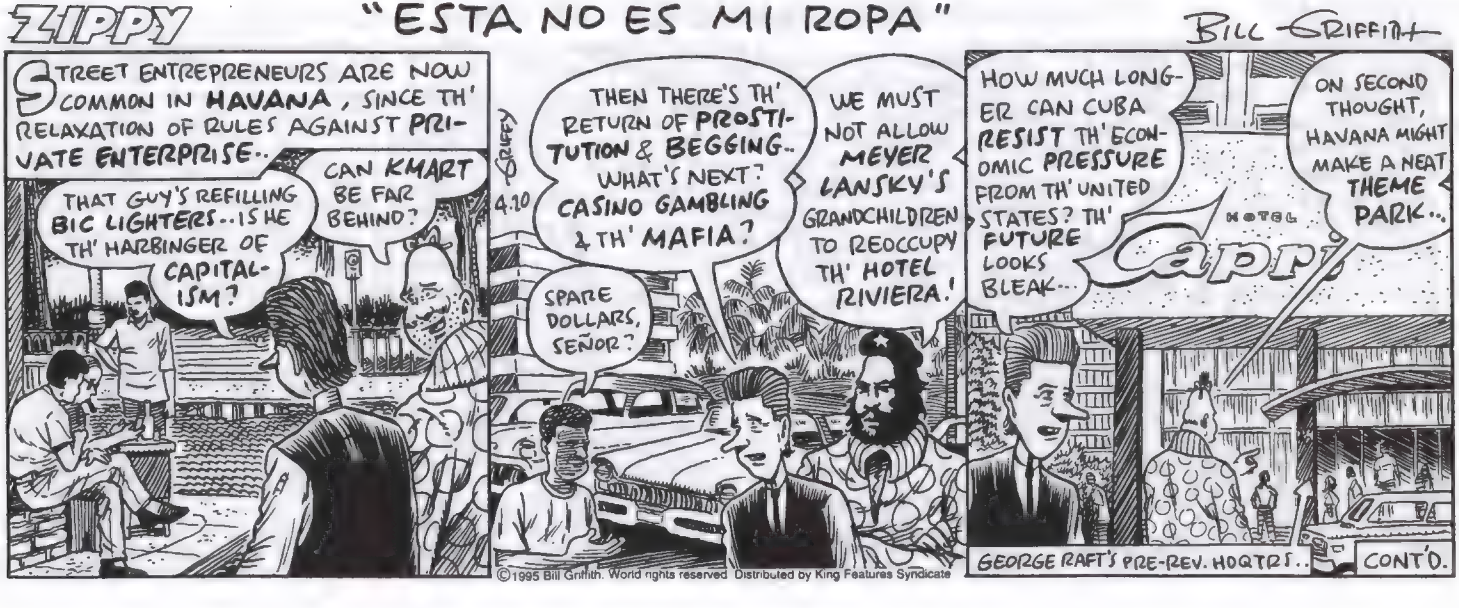
I'M A VORTEX OF SWIRLING THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS!
JOIN TH' CLUB!
SEÑORES IMPERIALISTAS
NO LES TENEMOS ABSOLUTAMENTE
NINGUN MIEDO!
FOR TH' FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DON'T FEEL ALIENATED!!
BILLBOARD ABOVE SAYS, "MR. IMPERIALISTS, WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FEAR OF YOU!"
I MIGHT CONSIDER MOVING HERE IF IT WEREN'T FOR TH' HEAT, HUMIDITY & DICTATORSHIP OF TH' PROLETARIAT!
A REVOLUTION IS NOT A TUPPERWARE PARTY!
MORE...


ZIPPY
"ESTÁ NO ES MI ROPA"
BILL GRIFFITH
STREET ENTREPRENEURS ARE NOW COMMON IN HAVANA, SINCE TH' RELAXATION OF RULES AGAINST PRIVATE ENTERPRISE..
THAT GUY'S REFILLING BIC LIGHTERS.. IS HE TH' HARBINGER OF CAPITALISM?
CAN KMART BE FAR BEHIND?
GRIFFY
4.20
THEN THERE'S TH' RETURN OF PROSTITUTION & BEGGING.. WHAT'S NEXT? CASINO GAMBLING & TH' MAFIA?
SPARE DOLLARS, SEÑOR?
WE MUST NOT ALLOW MEYER LANSKY'S GRANDCHILDREN TO REOCCUPY TH' HOTEL RIVIERA!
HOW MUCH LONGER CAN CUBA RESIST TH' ECONOMIC PRESSURE FROM TH' UNITED STATES? TH' FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK...
HOTEL
Capri
ON SECOND THOUGHT, HAVANA MIGHT MAKE A NEAT THEME PARK...
GEORGE RAFT'S PRE-REV. HDQTRS..
CONT'D.

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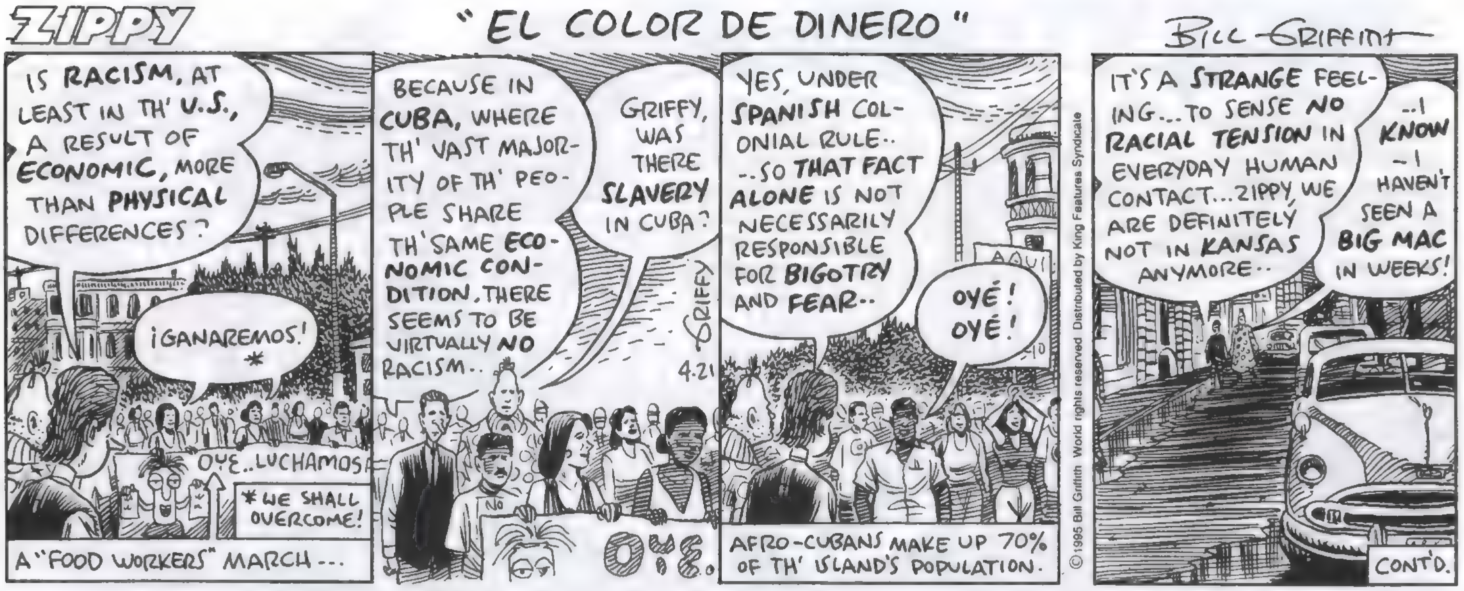
ZIPPY
"EL COLOR DE DINERO"
BILL GRIFFITH
IS RACISM, AT LEAST IN TH' U.S., A RESULT OF ECONOMIC, MORE THAN PHYSICAL DIFFERENCES?
¡GANAREMOS! *
OYE.. LUCHAMOS
* WE SHALL OVERCOME!
A "FOOD WORKERS" MARCH ---
BECAUSE IN CUBA, WHERE TH' VAST MAJORITY OF TH' PEOPLE SHARE TH' SAME ECONOMIC CONDITION, THERE SEEMS TO BE VIRTUALLY NO RACISM..
GRIFFY, WAS THERE SLAVERY IN CUBA?
GRIFFY 4-21
NO
OYE.
YES, UNDER SPANISH COLONIAL RULE.. --SO THAT FACT ALONE IS NOT NECESSARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR BIGOTRY AND FEAR..
OYÉ! OYÉ!
AFRO-CUBANS MAKE UP 70% OF TH' ISLAND'S POPULATION.
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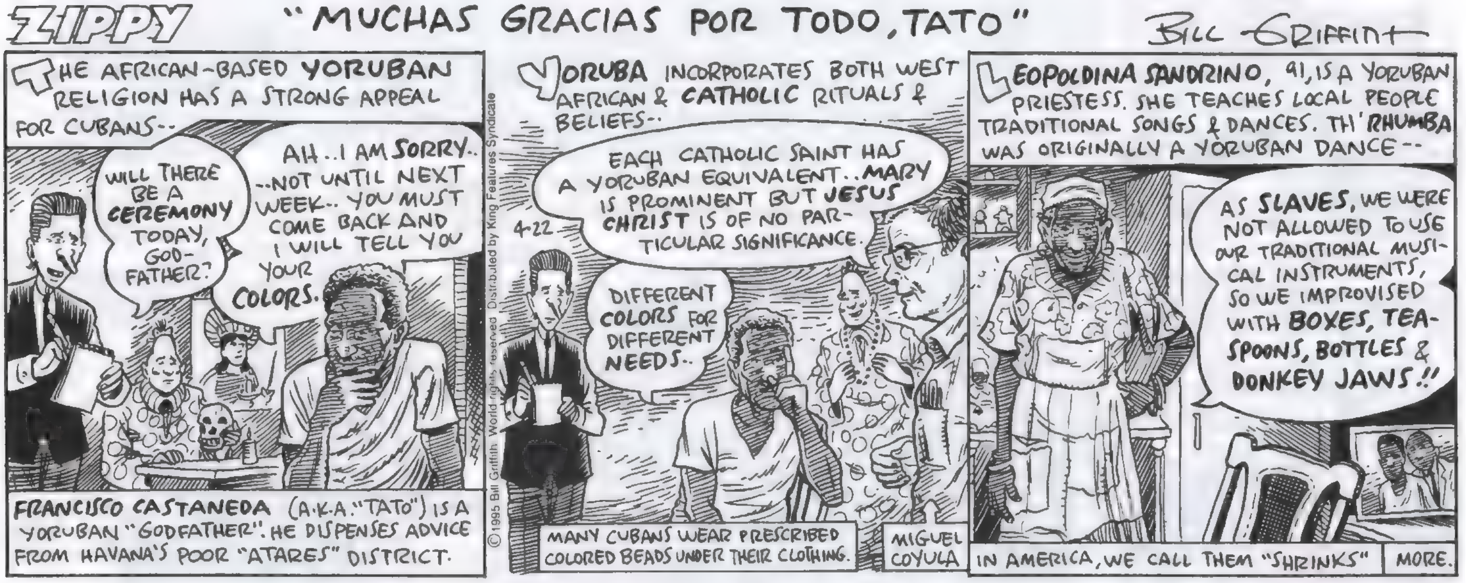
IT'S A STRANGE FEELING... TO SENSE NO RACIAL TENSION IN EVERYDAY HUMAN CONTACT... ZIPPY, WE ARE DEFINITELY NOT IN KANSAS ANYMORE..
--I KNOW --I HAVEN'T SEEN A BIG MAC IN WEEKS!
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"MUCHAS GRACIAS POR TODO, TATO"
BILL GRIFFITH
THE AFRICAN-BASED YORUBAN RELIGION HAS A STRONG APPEAL FOR CUBANS--
WILL THERE BE A CEREMONY TODAY, GODFATHER?
AH.. I AM SORRY.. --NOT UNTIL NEXT WEEK.. YOU MUST COME BACK AND I WILL TELL YOU YOUR COLORS.
FRANCISCO CASTANEDA (A.K.A. "TATO") IS A YORUBAN "GODFATHER". HE DISPENSES ADVICE FROM HAVANA'S POOR "ATARES" DISTRICT.
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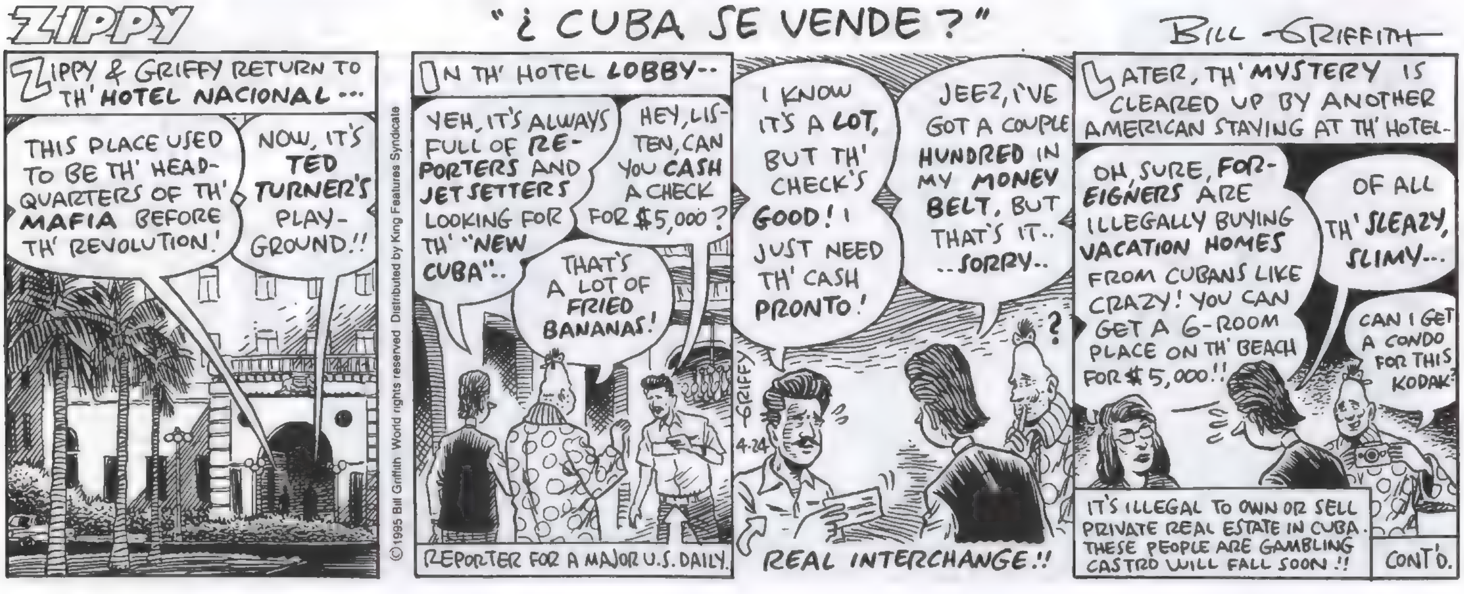
YORUBA INCORPORATES BOTH WEST AFRICAN & CATHOLIC RITUALS & BELIEFS--
EACH CATHOLIC SAINT HAS A YORUBAN EQUIVALENT.. MARY IS PROMINENT BUT JESUS CHRIST IS OF NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.
4-22
DIFFERENT COLORS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS..
MANY CUBANS WEAR PRESCRIBED COLORED BEADS UNDER THEIR CLOTHING.
MIGUEL COYULA
LEOPOLDINA SANDRINO, 91, IS A YORUBAN PRIESTESS. SHE TEACHES LOCAL PEOPLE TRADITIONAL SONGS & DANCES. TH' RHUMBA WAS ORIGINALLY A YORUBAN DANCE--
AS SLAVES, WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO USE OUR TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SO WE IMPROVISED WITH BOXES, TEASPOONS, BOTTLES & DONKEY JAWS!!
IN AMERICA, WE CALL THEM "SHRINKS"
MORE.


ZIPPY
"¿ CUBA SE VENDE ?"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY & GRIFFY RETURN TO TH' HOTEL NACIONAL ---
THIS PLACE USED TO BE TH' HEADQUARTERS OF TH' MAFIA BEFORE TH' REVOLUTION!
NOW, IT'S TED TURNER'S PLAYGROUND!!
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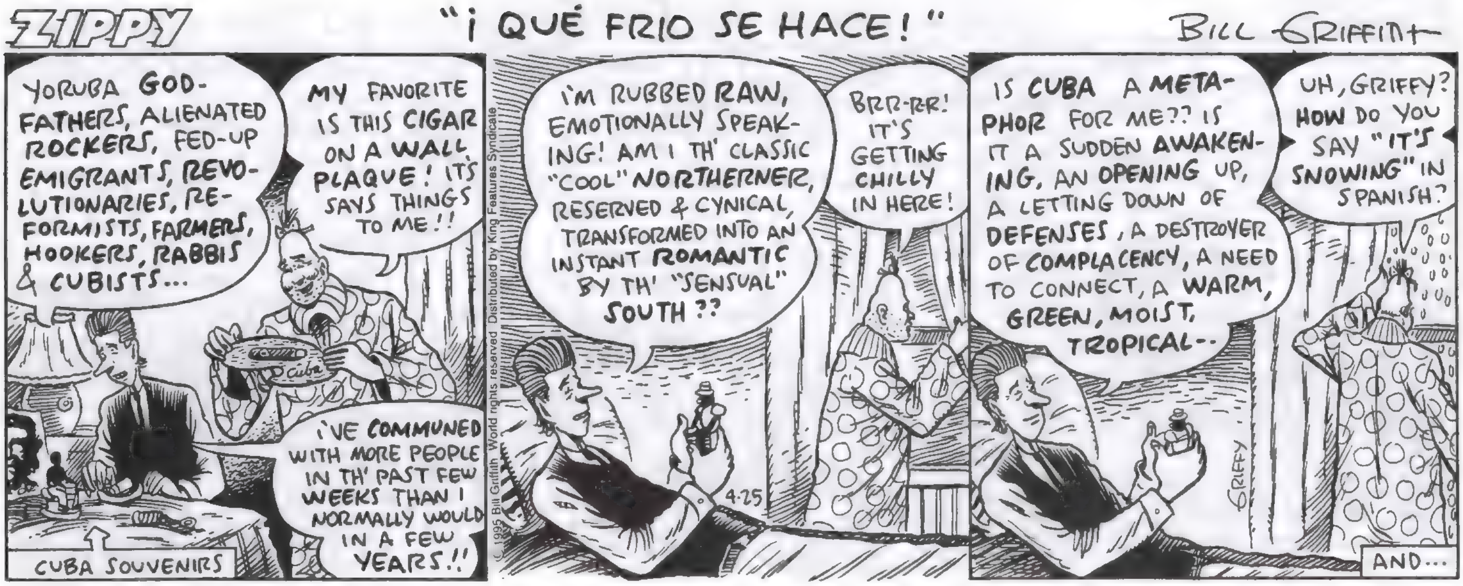
IN TH' HOTEL LOBBY--
YEH, IT'S ALWAYS FULL OF REPORTERS AND JETSETTERS LOOKING FOR TH' "NEW CUBA"..
HEY, LISTEN, CAN YOU CASH A CHECK FOR $5,000?
THAT'S A LOT OF FRIED BANANAS!
REPORTER FOR A MAJOR U.S. DAILY.
I KNOW IT'S A LOT, BUT TH' CHECK'S GOOD! I JUST NEED TH' CASH PRONTO!
JEEZ, I'VE GOT A COUPLE HUNDRED IN MY MONEY BELT, BUT THAT'S IT.. --SORRY..
?
GRIFFY 4-24
REAL INTERCHANGE!!
LATER, TH' MYSTERY IS CLEARED UP BY ANOTHER AMERICAN STAYING AT TH' HOTEL-
OH, SURE, FOREIGNERS ARE ILLEGALLY BUYING VACATION HOMES FROM CUBANS LIKE CRAZY! YOU CAN GET A 6-ROOM PLACE ON TH' BEACH FOR $5,000!!
OF ALL TH' SLEAZY, SLIMY...
CAN I GET A CONDO FOR THIS KODAK?
IT'S ILLEGAL TO OWN OR SELL PRIVATE REAL ESTATE IN CUBA. THESE PEOPLE ARE GAMBLING CASTRO WILL FALL SOON!!
CONT'D.


ZIPPY
"¡QUÉ FRIO SE HACE!"
BILL GRIFFITH
YORUBA GODFATHERS, ALIENATED ROCKERS, FED-UP EMIGRANTS, REVOLUTIONARIES, REFORMISTS, FARMERS, HOOKERS, RABBIS & CUBISTS...
MY FAVORITE IS THIS CIGAR ON A WALL PLAQUE! IT'S SAYS THINGS TO ME!!
Cuba
I'VE COMMUNED WITH MORE PEOPLE IN TH' PAST FEW WEEKS THAN I NORMALLY WOULD IN A FEW YEARS!!
CUBA SOUVENIRS
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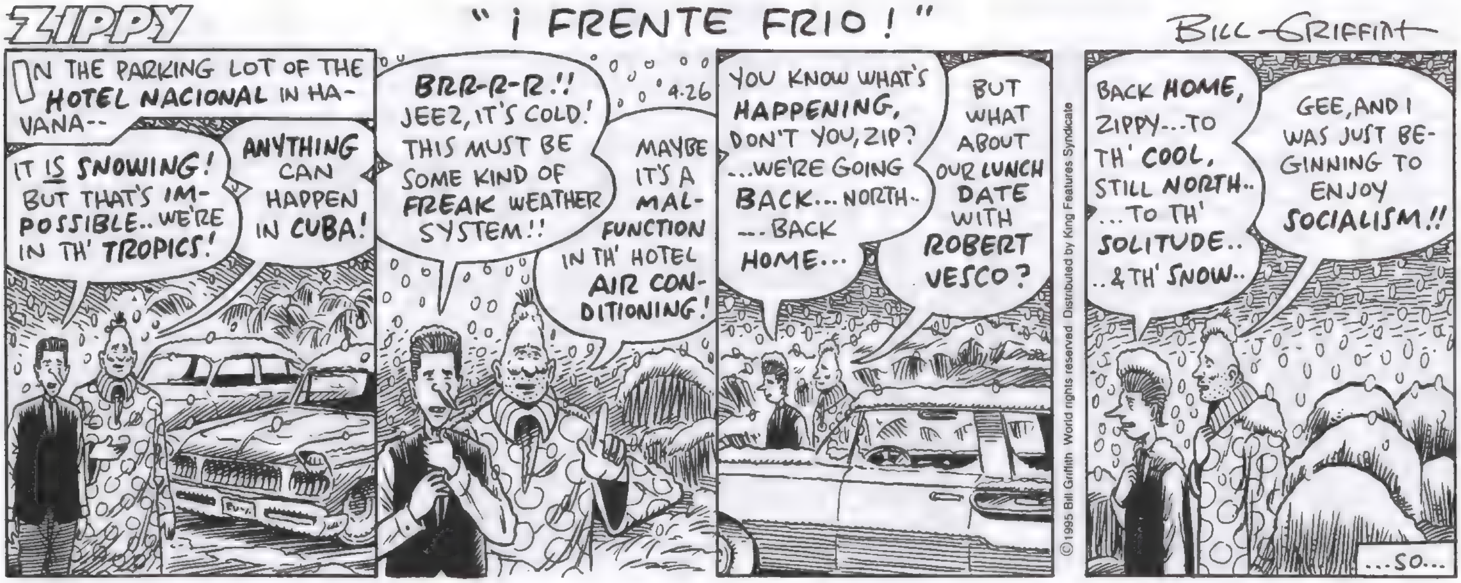
I'M RUBBED RAW, EMOTIONALLY SPEAKING! AM I TH' CLASSIC "COOL" NORTHERNER, RESERVED & CYNICAL, TRANSFORMED INTO AN INSTANT ROMANTIC BY TH' "SENSUAL" SOUTH??
BRR-RR! IT'S GETTING CHILLY IN HERE!
4-25
IS CUBA A METAPHOR FOR ME?? IS IT A SUDDEN AWAKENING, AN OPENING UP, A LETTING DOWN OF DEFENSES, A DESTROYER OF COMPLACENCY, A NEED TO CONNECT, A WARM, GREEN, MOIST, TROPICAL--
UH, GRIFFY? HOW DO YOU SAY "IT'S SNOWING" IN SPANISH?
GRIFFY
AND...


ZIPPY
"¡FRENTE FRIO!"
BILL GRIFFITH
IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE HOTEL NACIONAL IN HAVANA--
IT IS SNOWING! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.. WE'RE IN TH' TROPICS!
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN IN CUBA!
BRR-R-R!! JEEZ, IT'S COLD! THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF FREAK WEATHER SYSTEM!!
4-26
MAYBE IT'S A MALFUNCTION IN TH' HOTEL AIR CONDITIONING!
YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING, DON'T YOU, ZIP? ...WE'RE GOING BACK... NORTH.. ---BACK HOME...
BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR LUNCH DATE WITH ROBERT VESCO?
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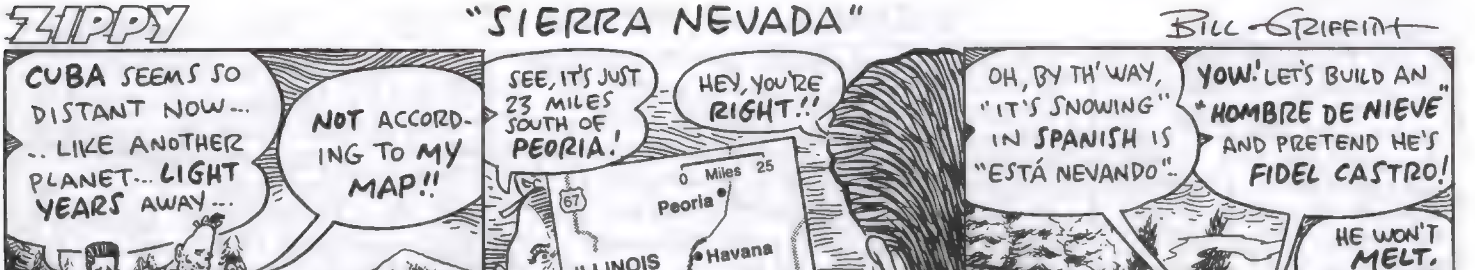
BACK HOME, ZIPPY...TO TH' COOL, STILL NORTH.. ...TO TH' SOLITUDE.. ..& TH' SNOW..
GEE, AND I WAS JUST BEGINNING TO ENJOY SOCIALISM!!
...SO...


ZIPPY
"SIERRA NEVADA"
BILL GRIFFITH
CUBA SEEMS SO DISTANT NOW... ..LIKE ANOTHER PLANET... LIGHT YEARS AWAY...
NOT ACCORDING TO MY MAP!!
4-27
SEE, IT'S JUST 23 MILES SOUTH OF PEORIA!
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT!!
0 Miles 25
Peoria
67
ILLINOIS
Havana
Springfield
125
36
55
River
108
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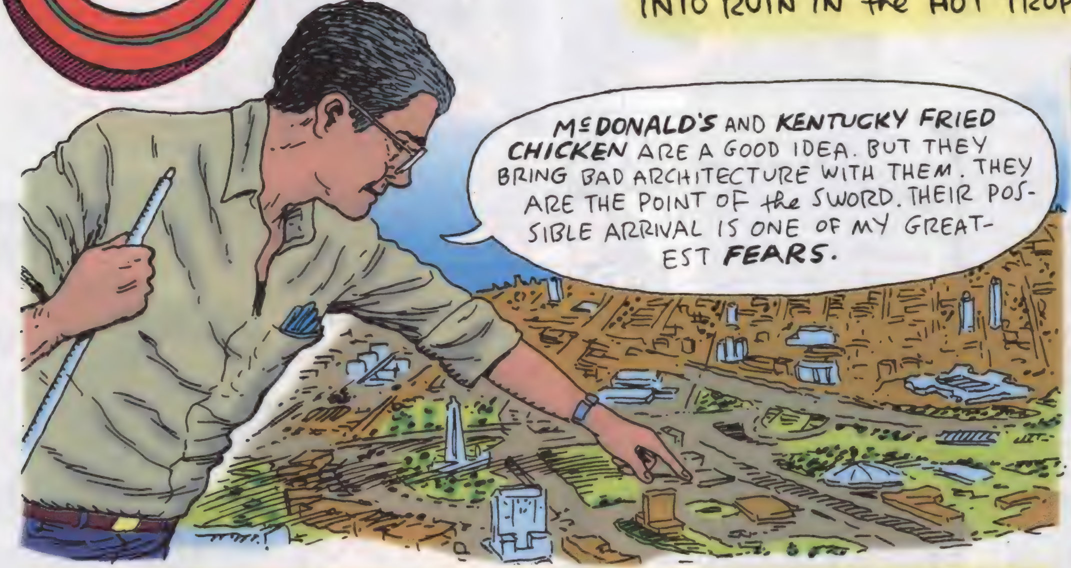
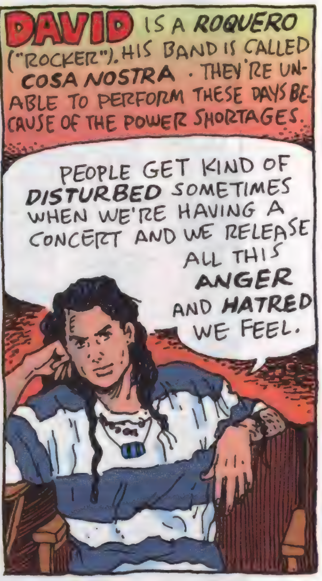
OH, BY TH' WAY, "IT'S SNOWING" IN SPANISH IS "ESTÁ NEVANDO".
YOW! LET'S BUILD AN "HOMBRE DE NIEVE" AND PRETEND HE'S FIDEL CASTRO!
HE WON'T MELT, WILL HE?
GRIFFY
END

Cuba The REALITY TOUR

I CAME TO CUBA ALMOST WITHOUT PRECONCEPTIONS. FOR MOST AMERICANS, IT IS the **BLACK HOLE** OF the CARIBBEAN. **HAVANA** IS A DELIRIOUSLY BEAUTIFUL, VITAL, SAD PLACE. IT IS SLOWLY FALLING INTO RUIN IN the HOT TROPICAL SUN.

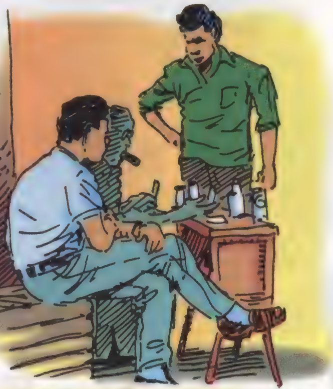

Mc**DONALD'S** AND **KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN** ARE A GOOD IDEA. BUT THEY BRING BAD ARCHITECTURE WITH THEM. THEY ARE THE POINT OF the SWORD. THEIR POSSIBLE ARRIVAL IS ONE OF MY GREATEST **FEARS**.

CUBAN ARCHITECT **MIGUEL COYULA** AND HIS GROUP FOR the INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT OF HAVANA HAVE BUILT A ONE-TO-ONE-THOUSAND **SCALE MODEL** OF the ENTIRE CITY.

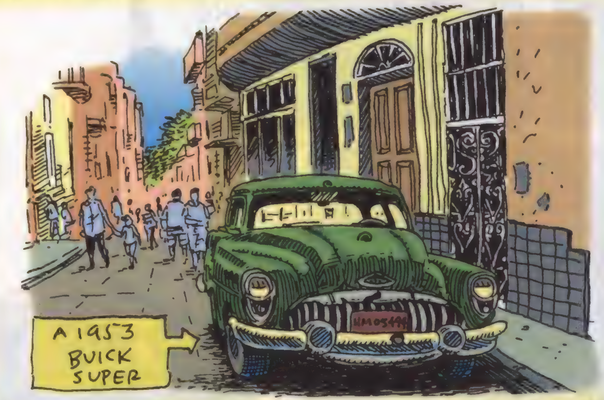


DAVID IS A ***ROQUERO*** ("ROCKER"). HIS BAND IS CALLED **COSA NOSTRA**. THEY'RE UNABLE TO PERFORM THESE DAYS BECAUSE OF THE POWER SHORTAGES.

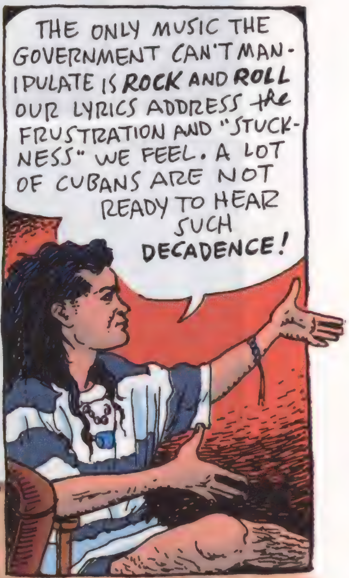
PEOPLE GET KIND OF **DISTURBED** SOMETIMES WHEN WE'RE HAVING A CONCERT AND WE RELEASE ALL THIS **ANGER** AND **HATRED** WE FEEL.



SIDEWALK ENTREPRENEUR REFILLING USED BIC LIGHTERS IN OLD HAVANA - NOT NECESSARILY LEGAL, BUT ALLOWED.

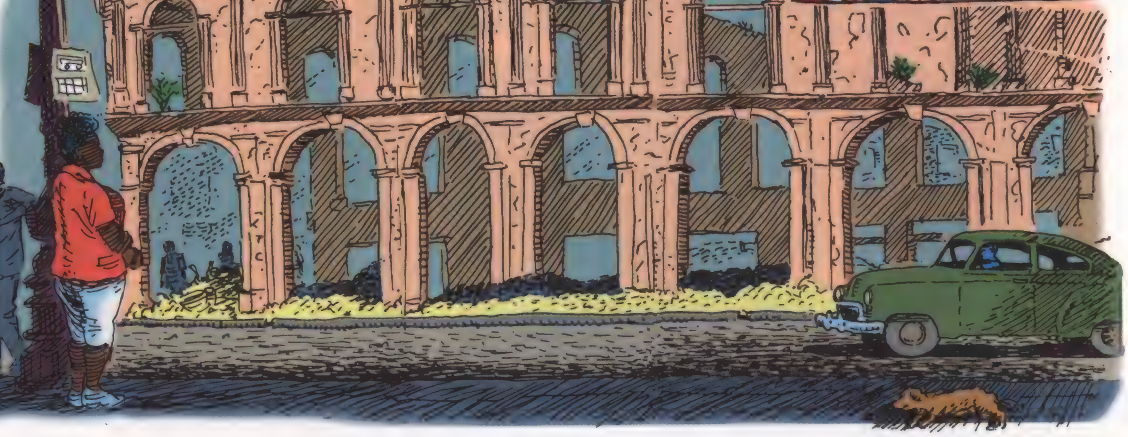

A 1953 BUICK SUPER

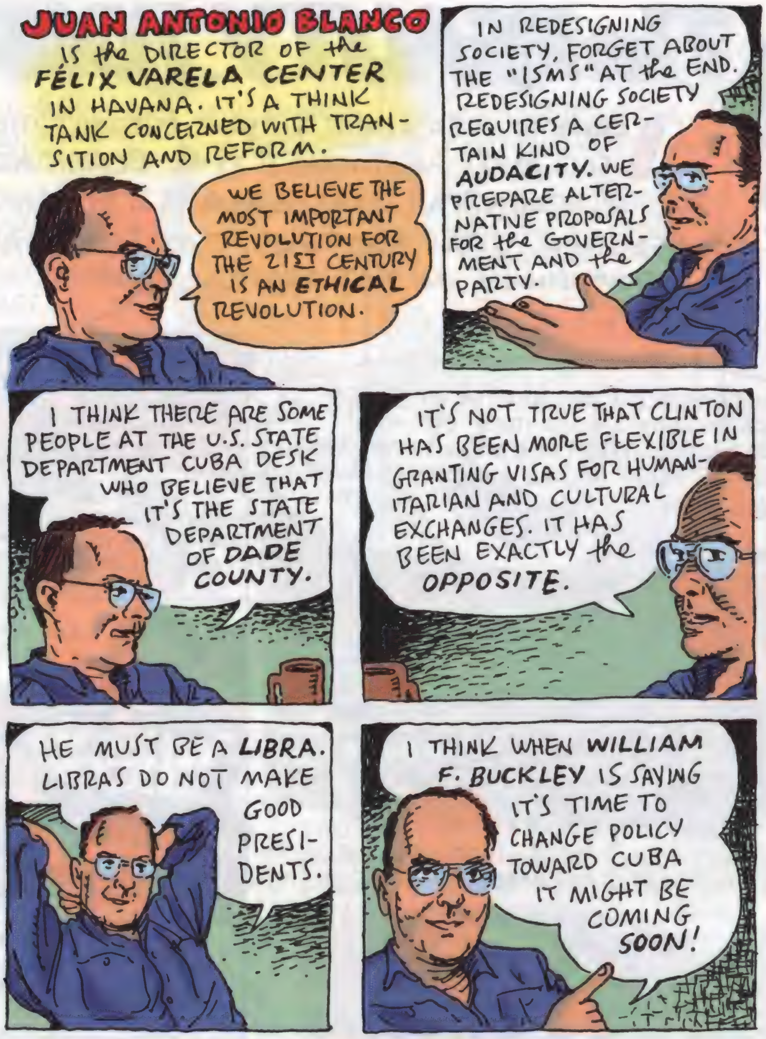
AMERICAN CARS FROM the FIFTIES ABOUND IN HAVANA. THEY'RE USUALLY KEPT IN GOOD SHAPE, THOUGH QUITE A FEW APPEAR TO BE COVERED IN COATS OF HOUSE PAINT.

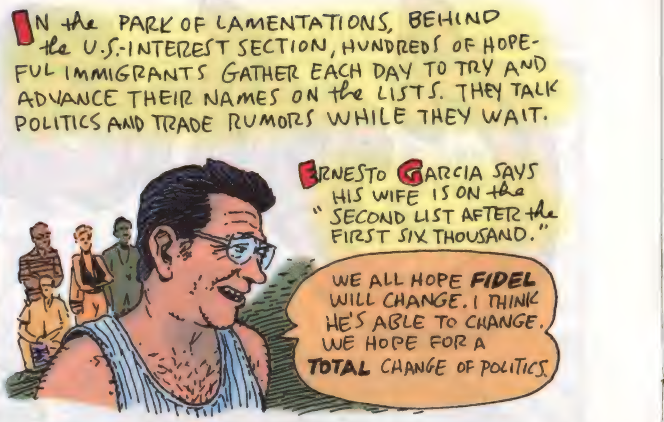

THE ONLY MUSIC THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T MANIPULATE IS **ROCK AND ROLL** OUR LYRICS ADDRESS the FRUSTRATION AND "STUCKNESS" WE FEEL. A LOT OF CUBANS ARE NOT READY TO HEAR SUCH **DECADENCE**!

WAITING FOR the **GUAGUA** (the BUS) IN OLD HAVANA...

A **ROOSTER** CROWS OVER the TRAFFIC NOISE.




JUAN ANTONIO BLANCO IS THE DIRECTOR OF THE FÉLIX VARELA CENTER IN HAVANA. IT'S A THINK TANK CONCERNED WITH TRANSITION AND REFORM.
WE BELIEVE THE MOST IMPORTANT REVOLUTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY IS AN ETHICAL REVOLUTION.
IN REDESIGNING SOCIETY, FORGET ABOUT THE "ISMS" AT THE END. REDESIGNING SOCIETY REQUIRES A CERTAIN KIND OF AUDACITY. WE PREPARE ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTY.
I THINK THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE AT THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT CUBA DESK WHO BELIEVE THAT IT'S THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DADE COUNTY.
IT'S NOT TRUE THAT CLINTON HAS BEEN MORE FLEXIBLE IN GRANTING VISAS FOR HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES. IT HAS BEEN EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE.
HE MUST BE A LIBRA. LIBRAS DO NOT MAKE GOOD PRESIDENTS.
I THINK WHEN WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY IS SAYING IT'S TIME TO CHANGE POLICY TOWARD CUBA IT MIGHT BE COMING SOON!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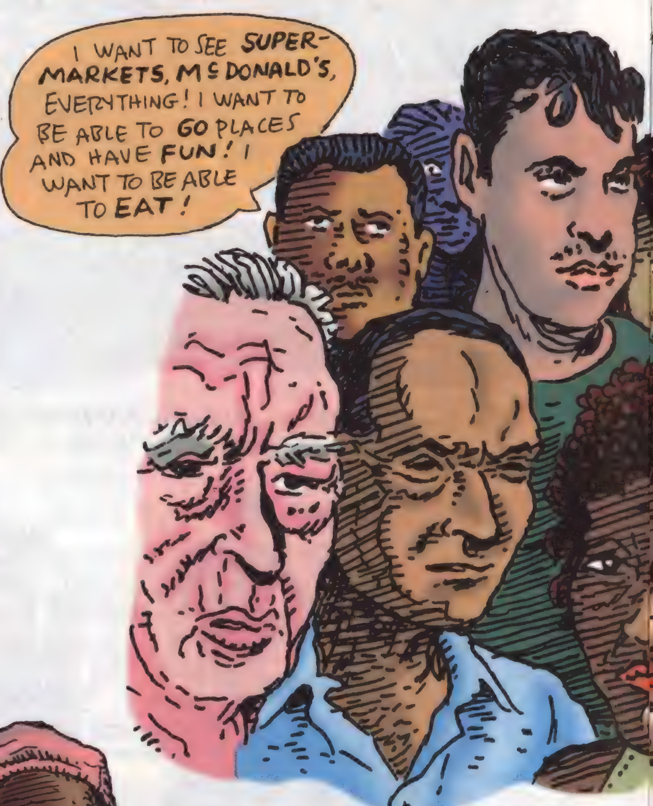
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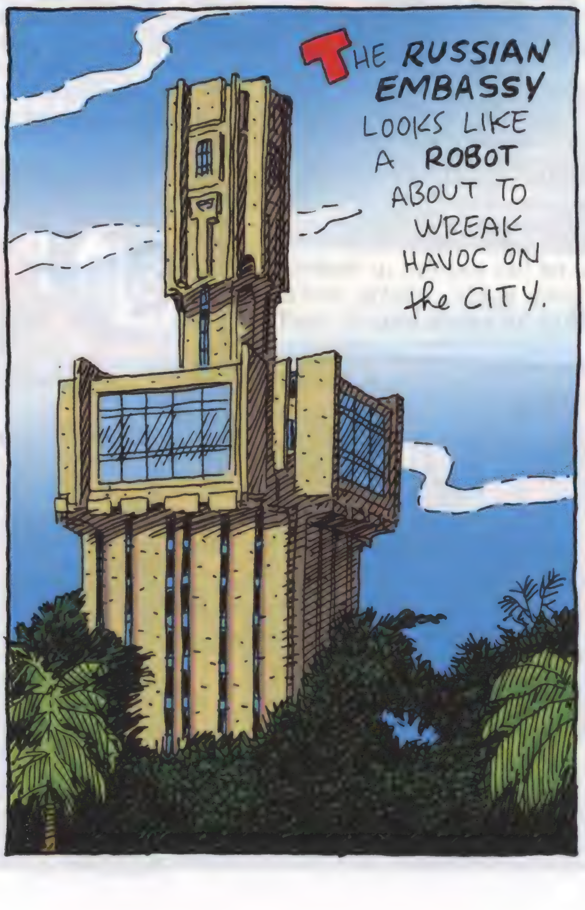
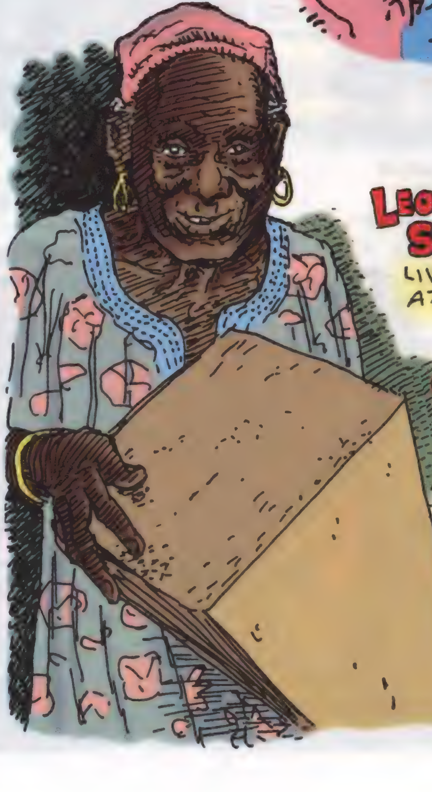

THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY LOOKS LIKE A ROBOT ABOUT TO WREAK HAVOC ON THE CITY.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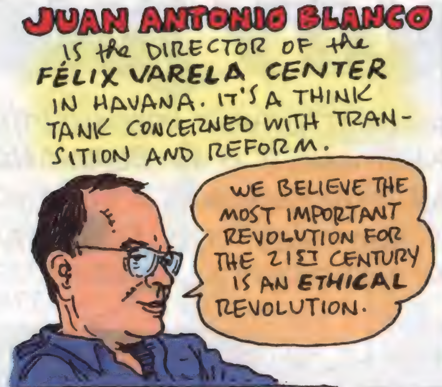
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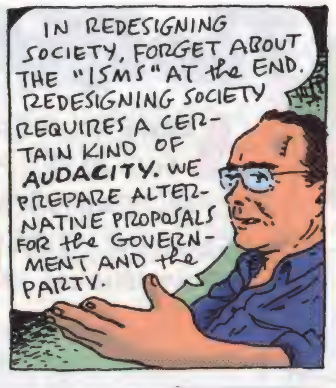
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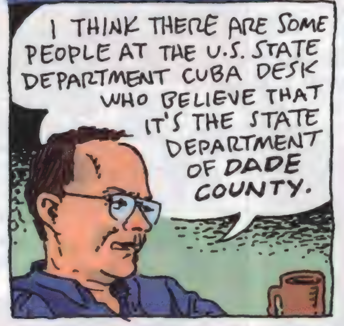
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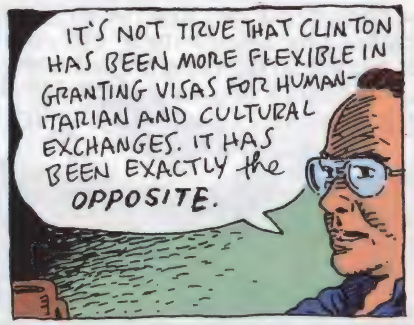
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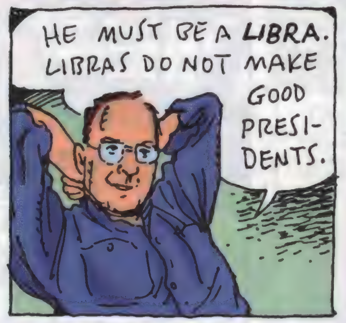
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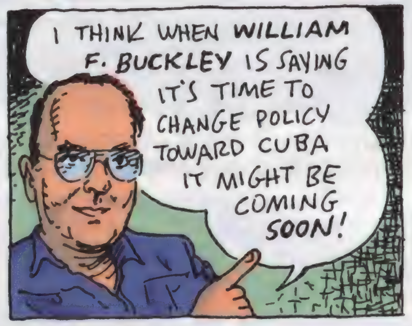
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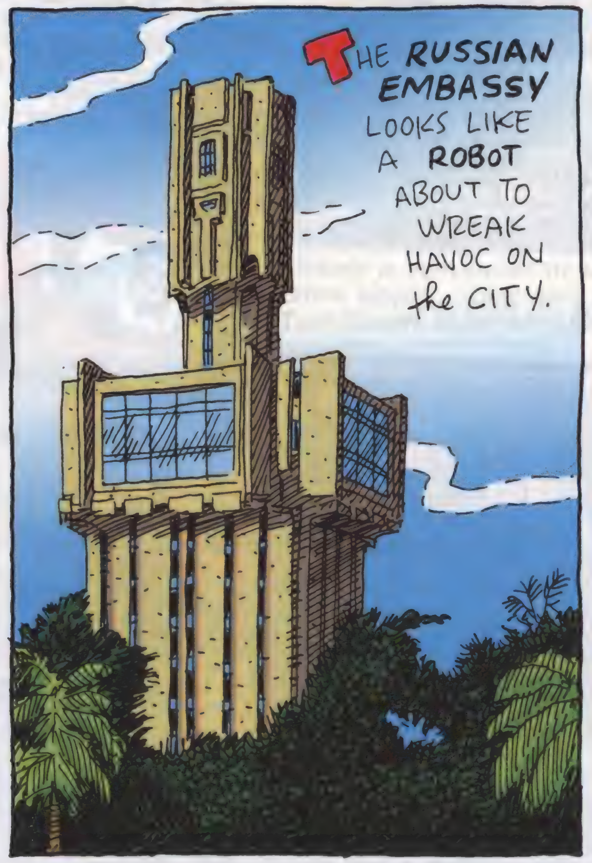
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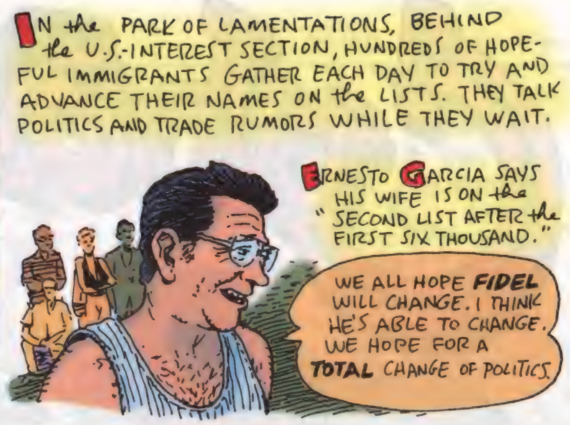
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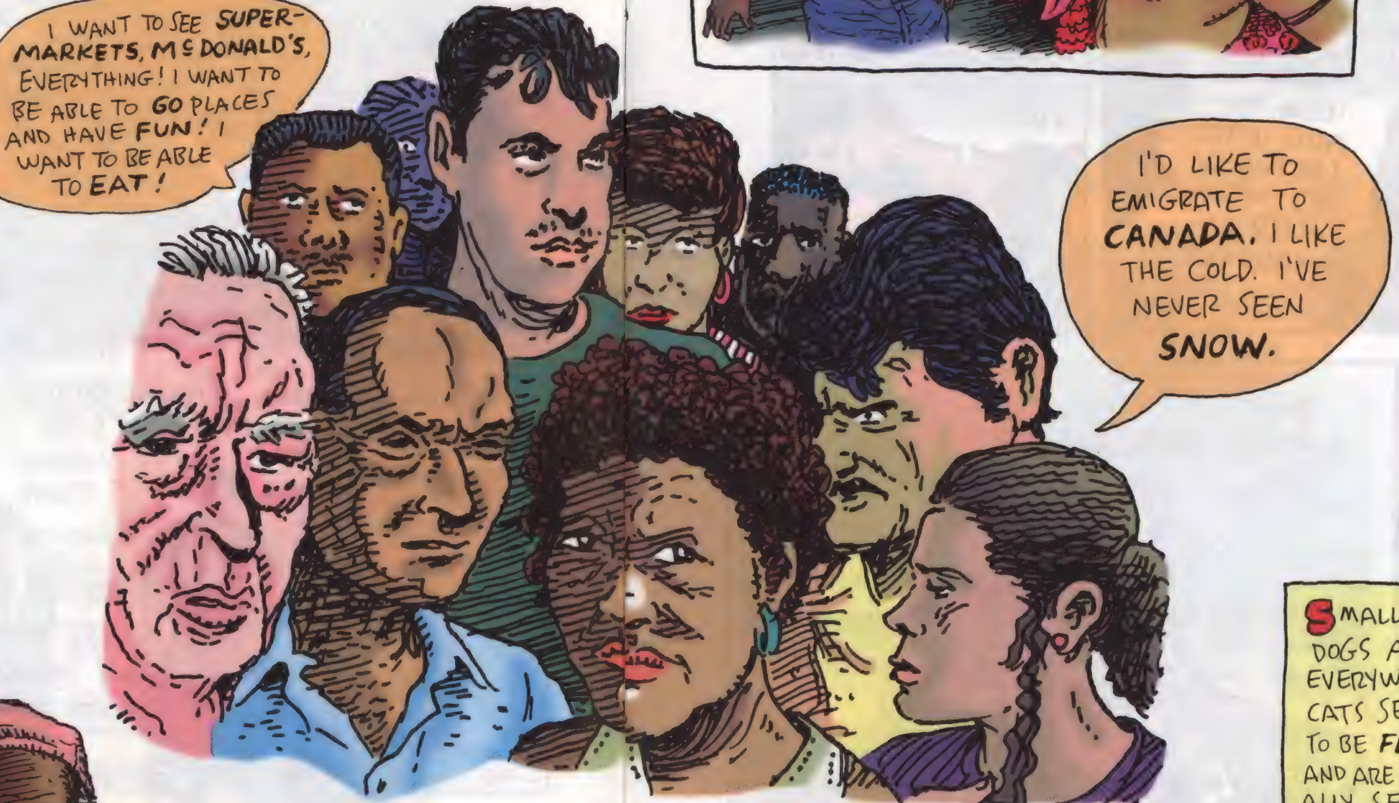
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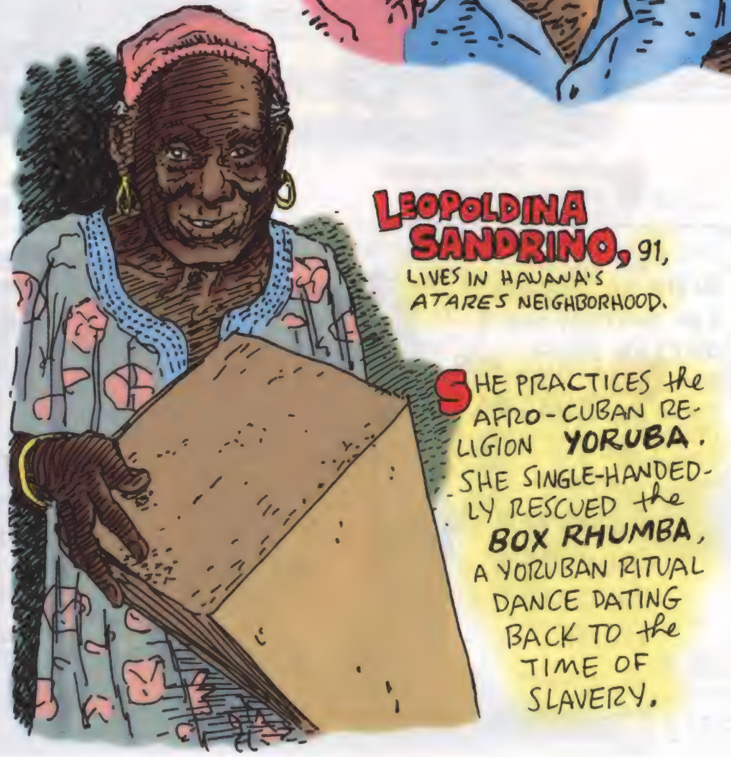
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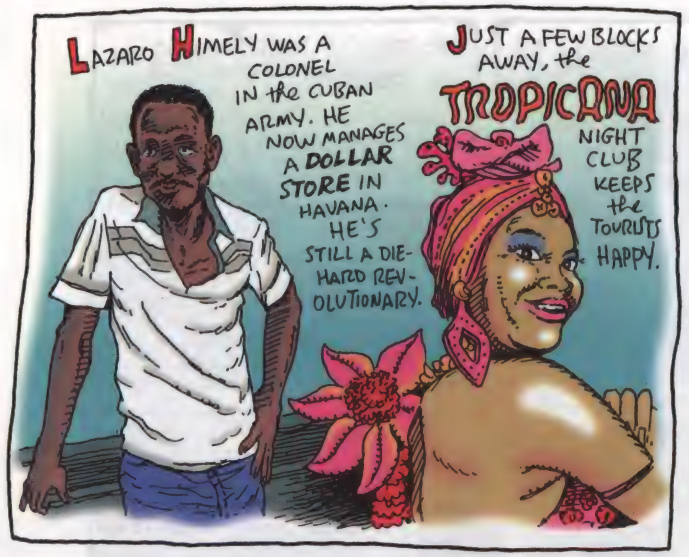
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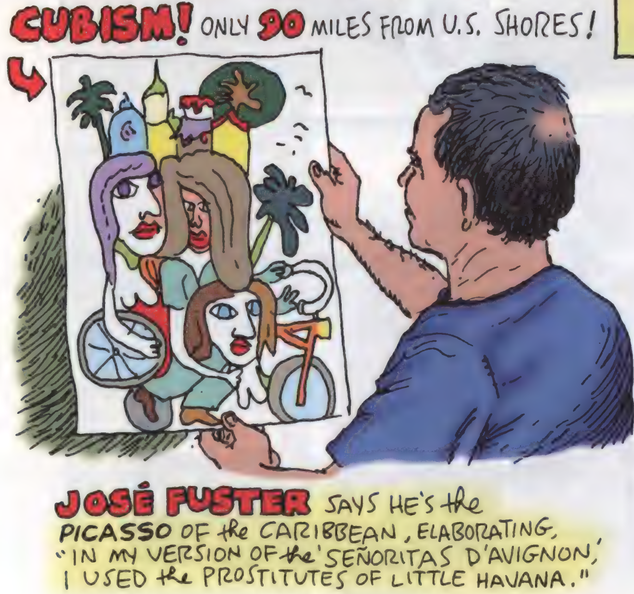
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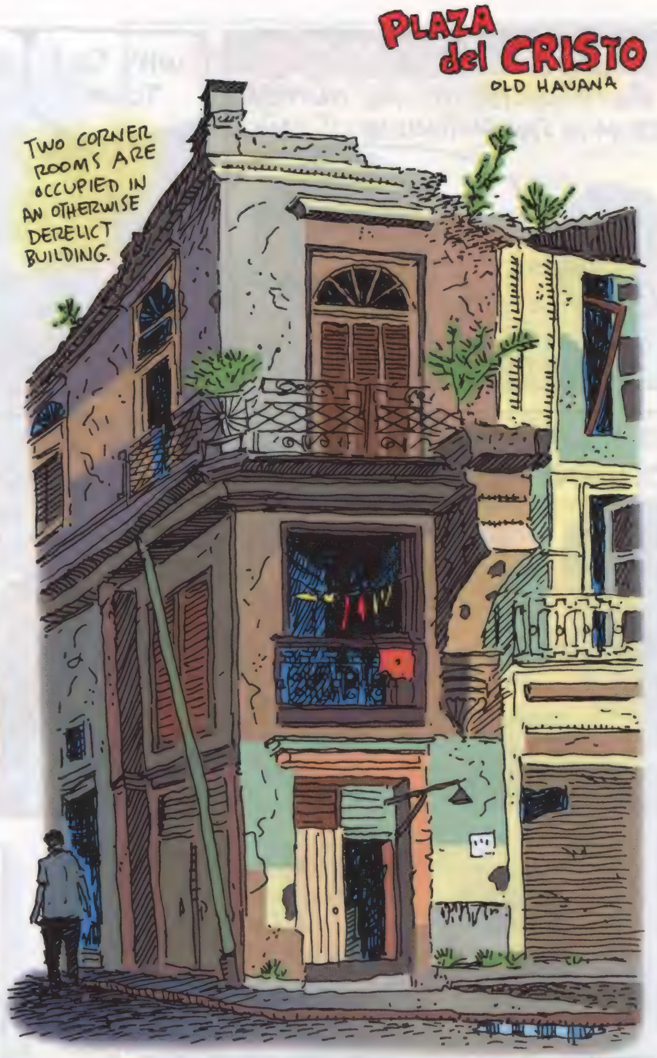
PLAZA del CRISTO
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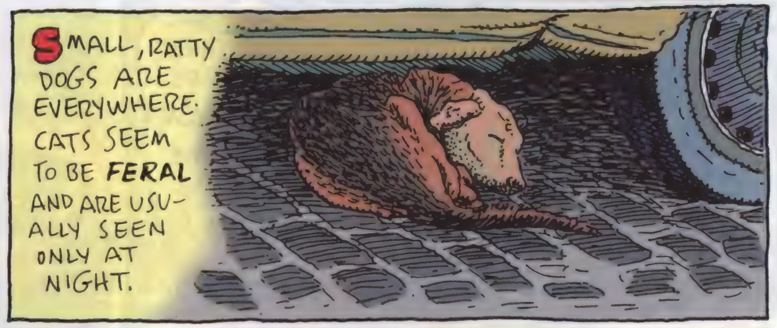
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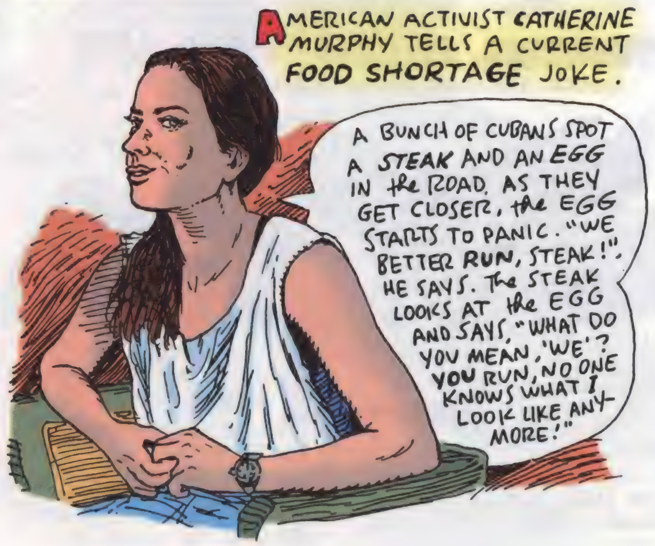
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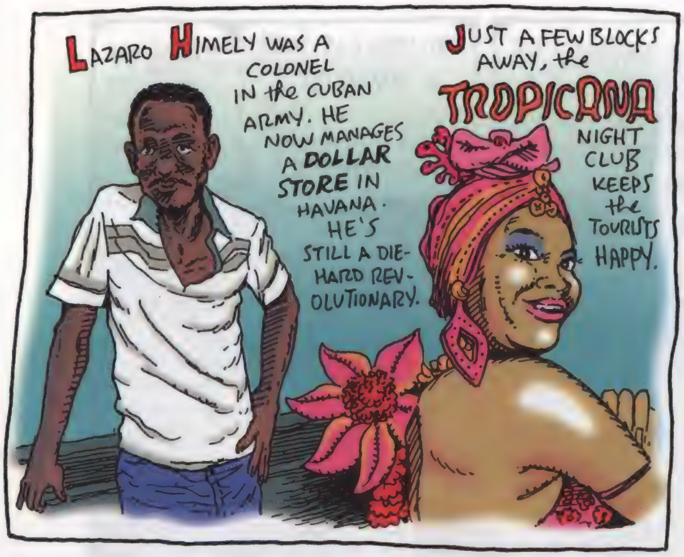
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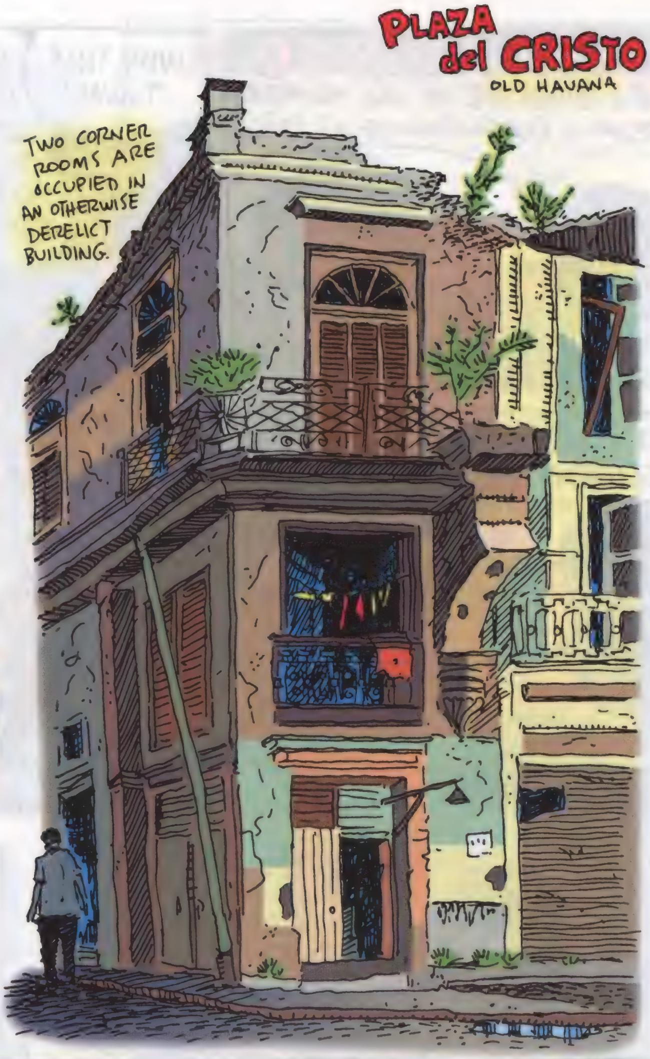
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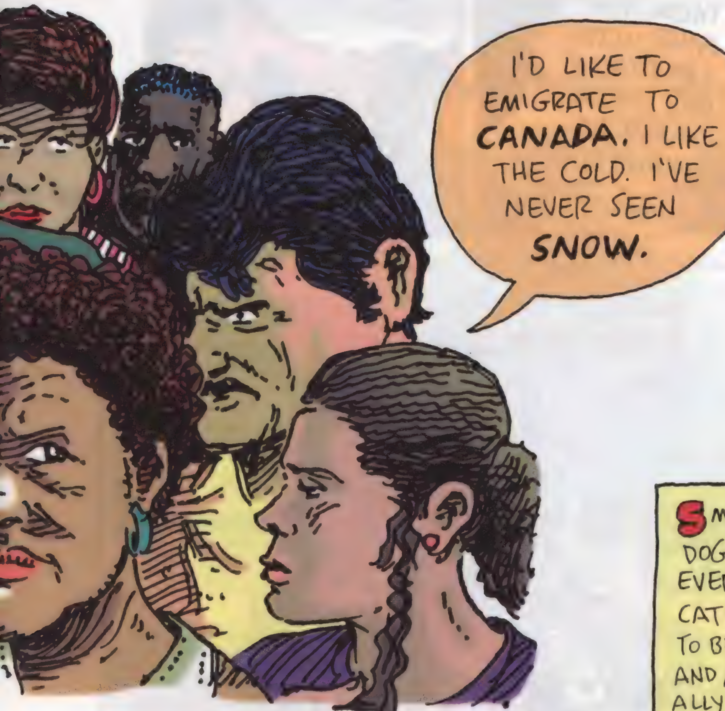
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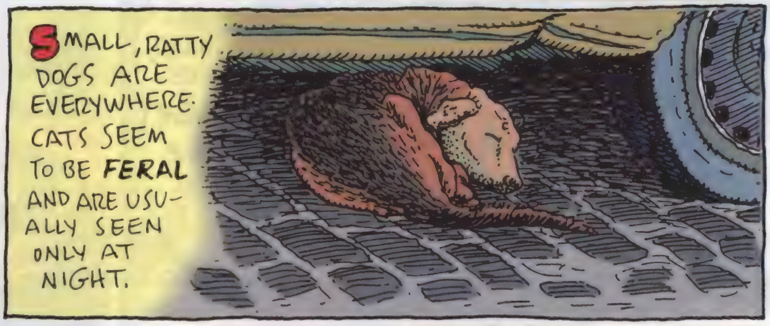
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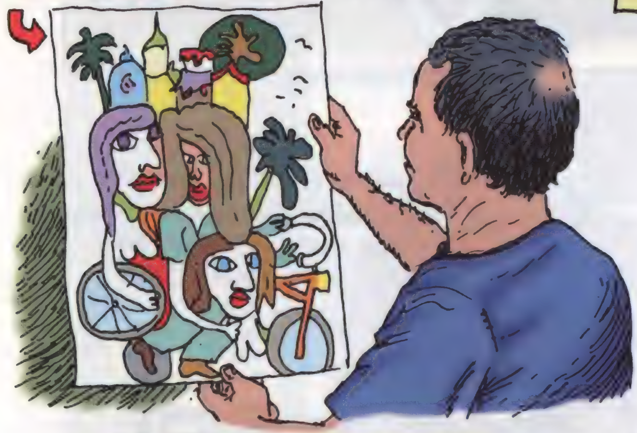

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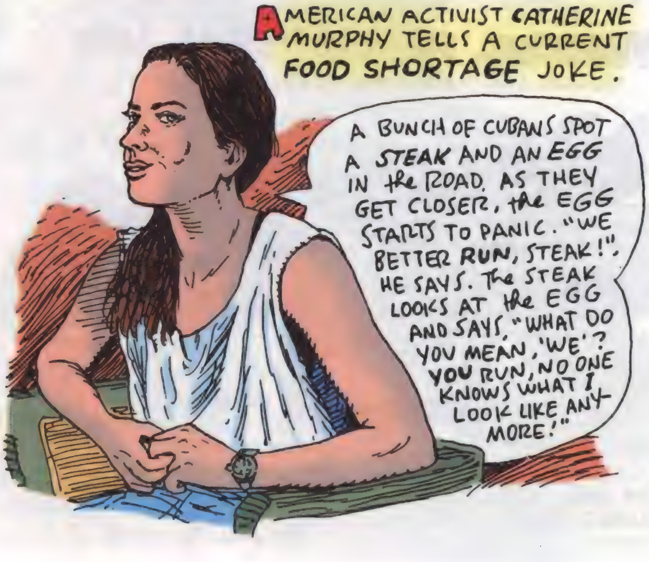
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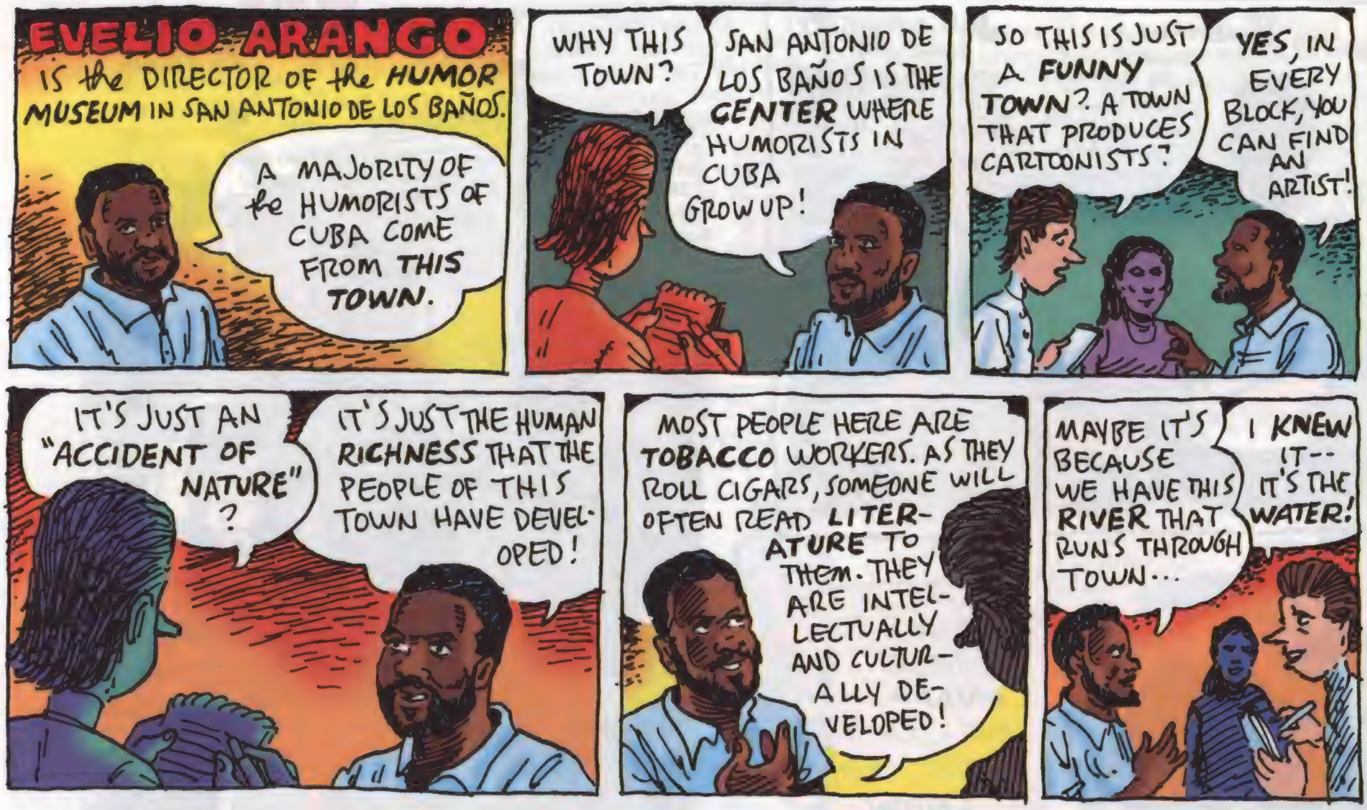
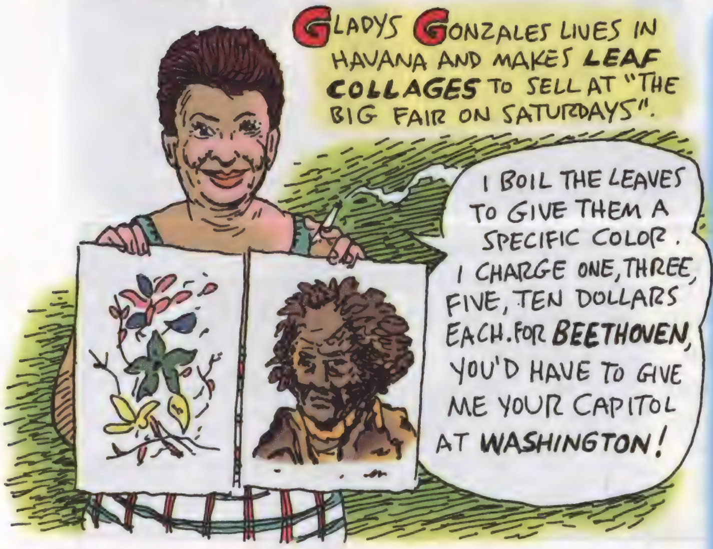
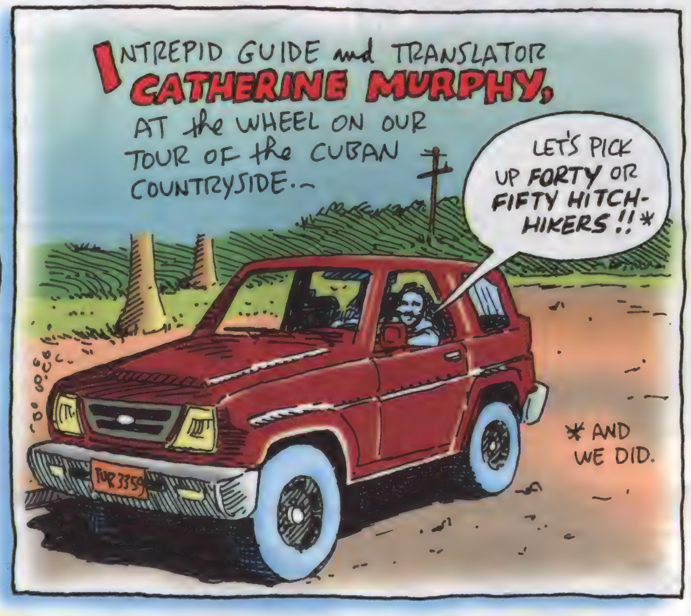

EVELIO ARANGO IS the DIRECTOR OF the HUMOR MUSEUM IN SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BAÑOS.
A MAJORITY OF the HUMORISTS OF CUBA COME FROM THIS TOWN.
WHY THIS TOWN?
SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BAÑOS IS THE CENTER WHERE HUMORISTS IN CUBA GROW UP!
SO THIS IS JUST A FUNNY TOWN? A TOWN THAT PRODUCES CARTOONISTS?
YES, IN EVERY BLOCK, YOU CAN FIND AN ARTIST!
IT'S JUST AN "ACCIDENT OF NATURE"?
IT'S JUST THE HUMAN RICHNESS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN HAVE DEVELOPED!
MOST PEOPLE HERE ARE TOBACCO WORKERS. AS THEY ROLL CIGARS, SOMEONE WILL OFTEN READ LITERATURE TO THEM. THEY ARE INTELLECTUALLY AND CULTURALLY DEVELOPED!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE THIS RIVER THAT RUNS THROUGH TOWN...
I KNEW IT-- IT'S THE WATER!



GLADYS GONZALES LIVES IN HAVANA AND MAKES **LEAF COLLAGES** TO SELL AT "THE BIG FAIR ON SATURDAYS".

I BOIL THE LEAVES TO GIVE THEM A SPECIFIC COLOR. I CHARGE ONE, THREE, FIVE, TEN DOLLARS EACH. FOR BEETHOVEN, YOU'D HAVE TO GIVE ME YOUR CAPITOL AT WASHINGTON!



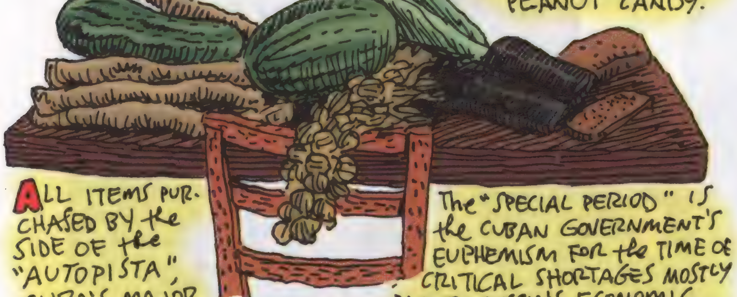
INTREPID GUIDE and TRANSLATOR **CATHERINE MURPHY,** AT the WHEEL ON OUR TOUR OF the CUBAN COUNTRYSIDE.

LET'S PICK UP FORTY OR FIFTY HITCH-HIKERS!! *
TUR 3359

* AND WE DID.

"SPECIAL PERIOD" STILL LIFE

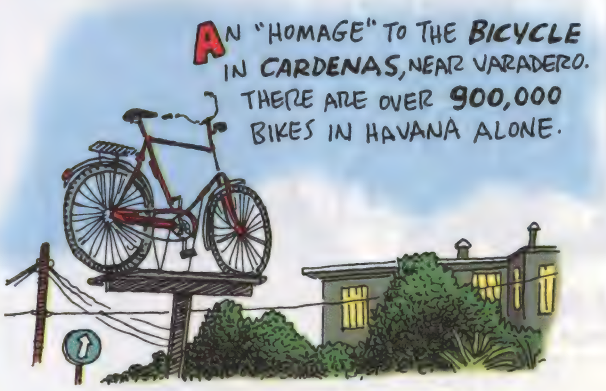
YUCCA, SQUASH, CORN, GARLIC, GUAVA PASTE, CHEESE and "MANI", A SUPER-SWEET PEANUT CANDY.

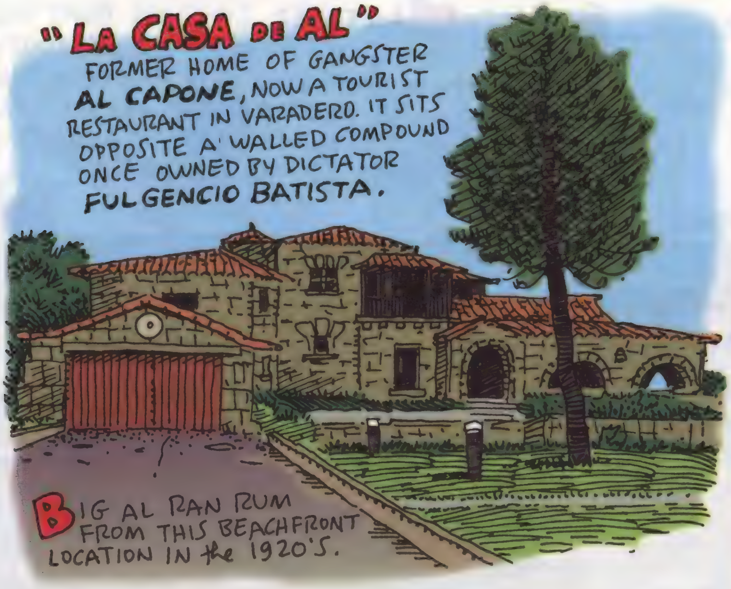


ALL ITEMS PURCHASED BY the SIDE OF the "AUTOPISTA", CUBA'S MAJOR EAST-WEST HIGHWAY (NOT TOO CROWDED THESE DAYS...)

The "SPECIAL PERIOD" IS the CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S EUPHEMISM FOR the TIME OF CRITICAL SHORTAGES MOSTLY DUE TO RUSSIA'S ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL. WITH THE RE-OPENING OF HAVANA'S FARMER'S MARKET, FOOD IS SOMEWHAT EASIER TO COME BY.

AN "HOMAGE" TO THE **BICYCLE** IN **CARDENAS**, NEAR VARADERO. THERE ARE OVER **900,000** BIKES IN HAVANA ALONE.

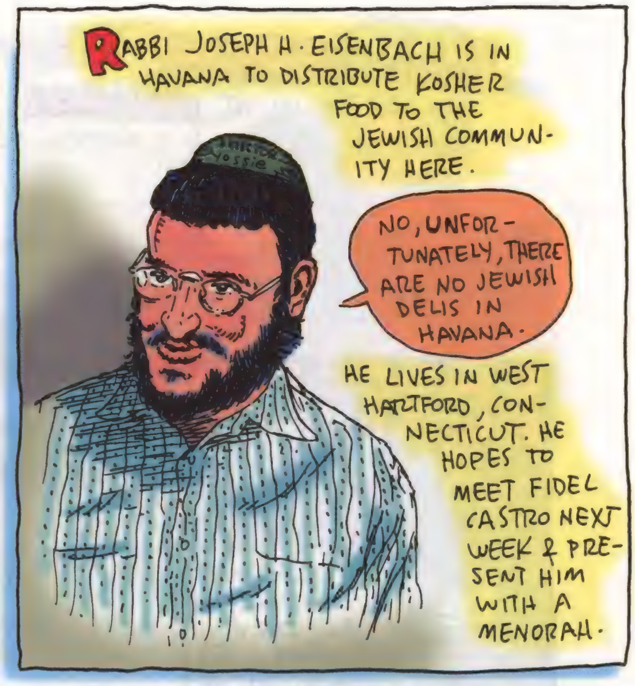




"**LA CASA DE AL**"

FORMER HOME OF GANGSTER **AL CAPONE**, NOW A TOURIST RESTAURANT IN VARADERO. IT SITS OPPOSITE A WALLED COMPOUND ONCE OWNED BY DICTATOR **FULGENCIO BATISTA**.

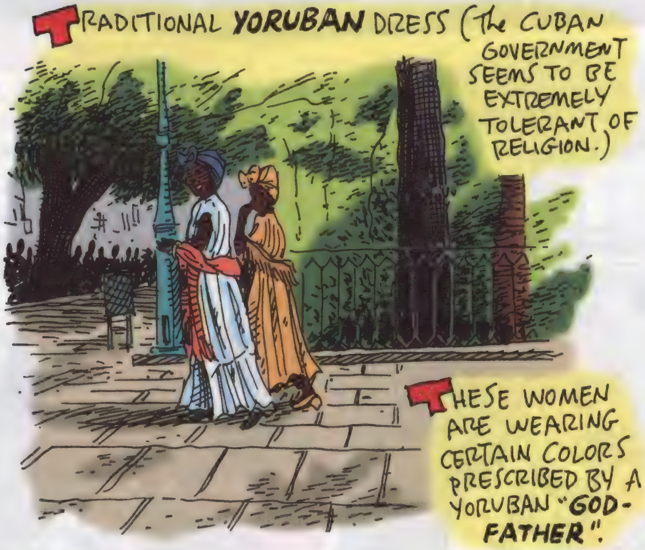
BIG AL RAN RUM FROM THIS BEACHFRONT LOCATION IN the 1920'S.



RABBI JOSEPH H. EISENBACH IS IN HAVANA TO DISTRIBUTE KOSHER FOOD TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE.

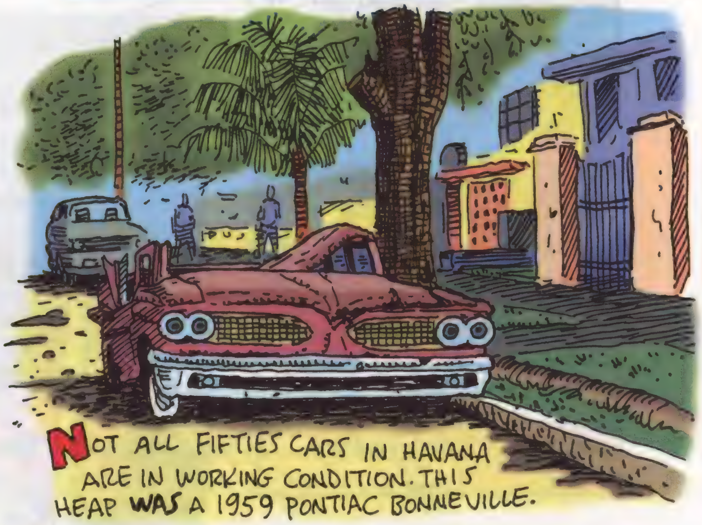
NO, **UNFORTUNATELY**, THERE ARE NO JEWISH DELIS IN HAVANA.

HE LIVES IN WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT. HE HOPES TO MEET FIDEL CASTRO NEXT WEEK & PRESENT HIM WITH A MENORAH.

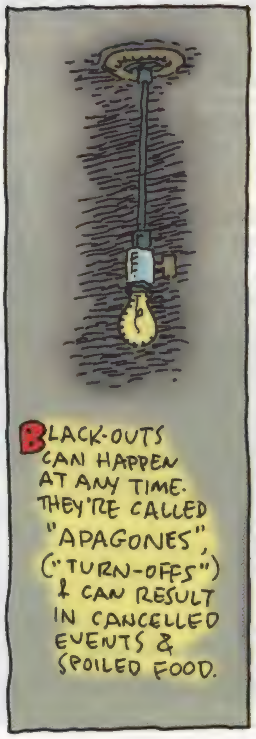


TRADITIONAL **YORUBAN** DRESS (The CUBAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE EXTREMELY TOLERANT OF RELIGION.)

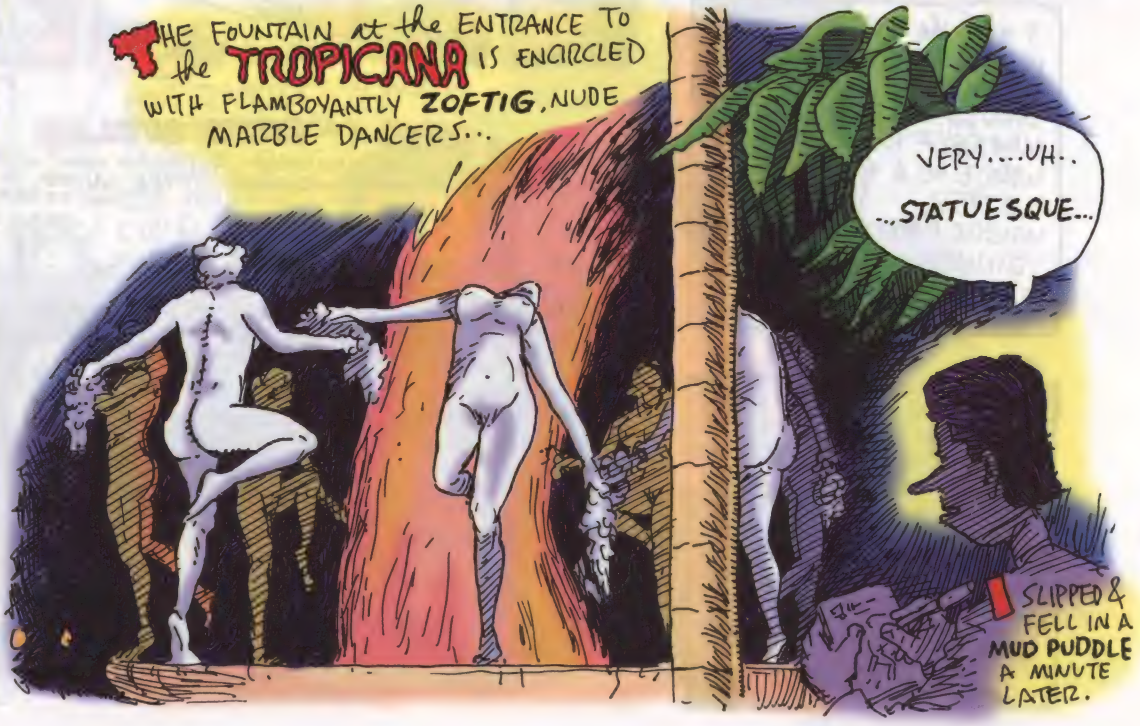
THESE WOMEN ARE WEARING CERTAIN COLORS PRESCRIBED BY A YORUBAN "**GODFATHER**".



NOT ALL FIFTIES CARS IN HAVANA ARE IN WORKING CONDITION. THIS HEAP **WAS** A 1959 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE.



BLACK-OUTS CAN HAPPEN AT ANY TIME. THEY'RE CALLED "APAGONES", ("TURN-OFFS") & CAN RESULT IN CANCELLED EVENTS & SPOILED FOOD.



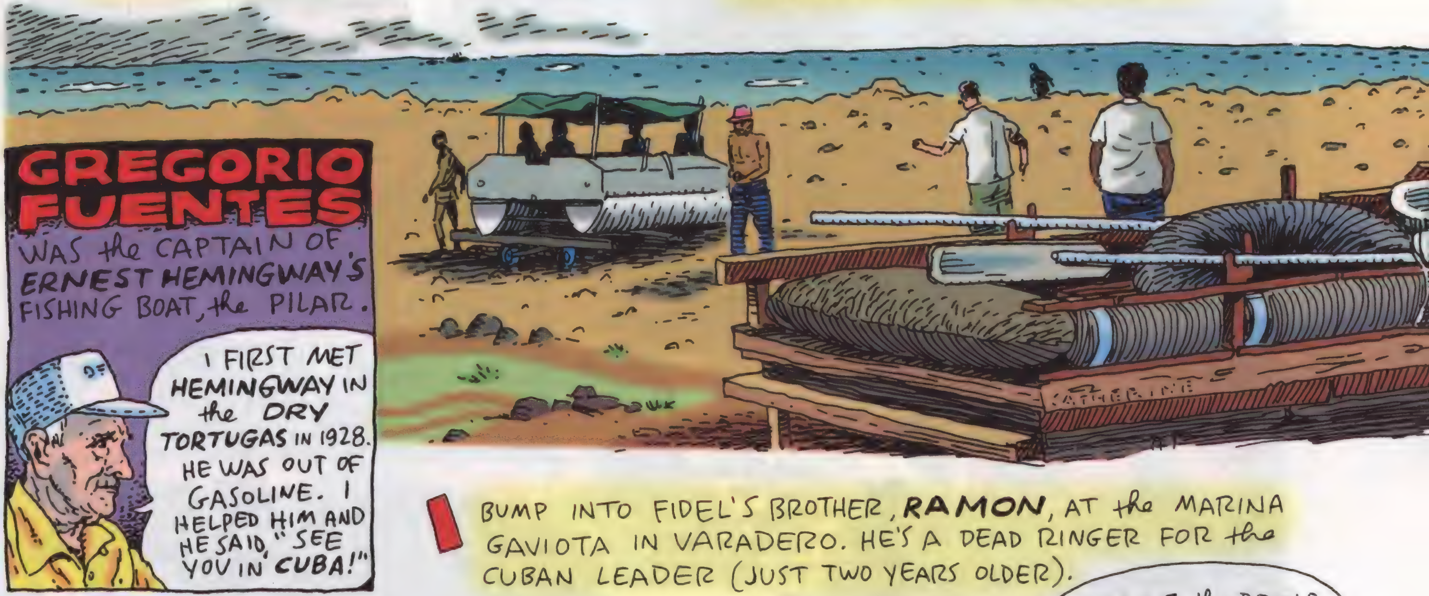
THE FOUNTAIN at the ENTRANCE TO the **TROPICANA** IS ENCIRCLED WITH FLAMBOYANTLY **ZOFTIG**, NUDE MARBLE DANCERS...

VERY....UH..
...**STATUESQUE**...

I SLIPPED & FELL IN A **MUD PUDDLE** A MINUTE LATER.

BALSEROS ("RAFTERS") ON THE BEACH AT **COJIMAR**, JUST EAST OF HAVANA. I WATCH AS THE LAST ONES LEAVE...

ALBERTO **M**ARTINEZ SAYS HIS BOAT COST **#95** TO MAKE (SEVERAL YEARS' SALARY). WE WATCH A RAFT WITH FIVE PEOPLE ON BOARD DRIFT TOWARD **FLORIDA**. "IF THE U.S. COAST GUARD WOULD COME CLOSER," HE ADDS, "WE WOULDN'T LOSE SO MANY **LIVES**."

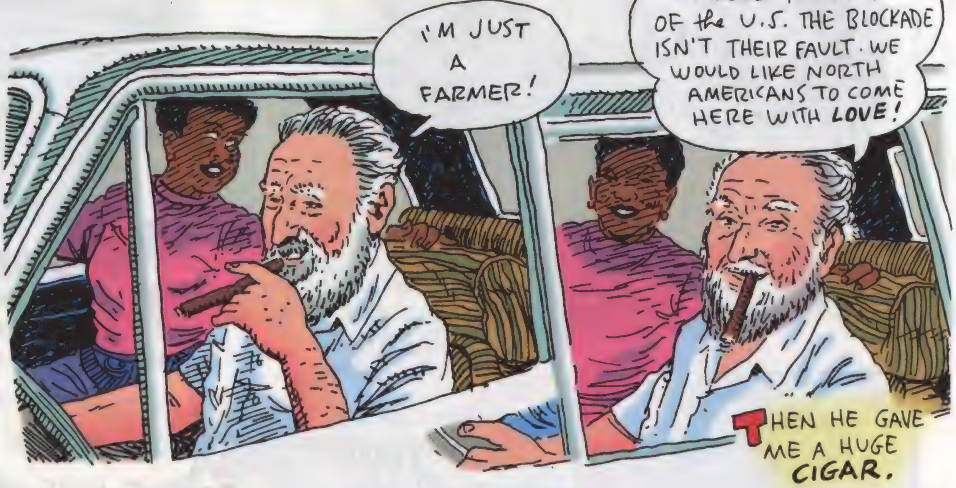


GREGORIO FUENTES

WAS THE CAPTAIN OF **ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S** FISHING BOAT, THE PILAR.

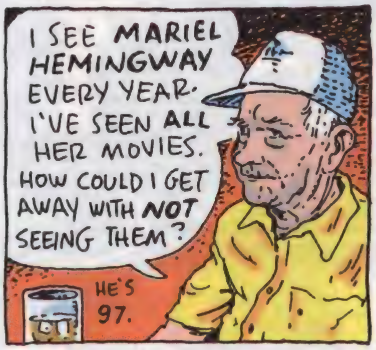
I FIRST MET **HEMINGWAY** IN THE **DRY TORTUGAS** IN 1928. HE WAS OUT OF GASOLINE. I HELPED HIM AND HE SAID, "SEE YOU IN **CUBA**!"
KATHERINE

I BUMP INTO FIDEL'S BROTHER, **RAMON**, AT THE MARINA GAVIOTA IN VARADERO. HE'S A DEAD RINGER FOR THE CUBAN LEADER (JUST TWO YEARS OLDER).



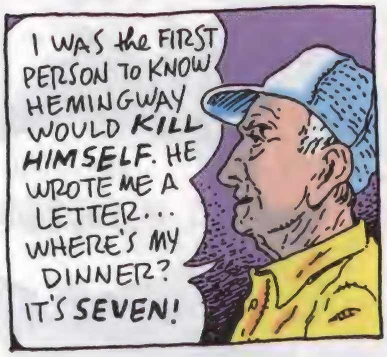
I'M JUST A FARMER!
I **LOVE** THE PEOPLE OF THE U.S. THE BLOCKADE ISN'T THEIR FAULT. WE WOULD LIKE NORTH AMERICANS TO COME HERE WITH **LOVE**!

THEN HE GAVE ME A HUGE **CIGAR**.

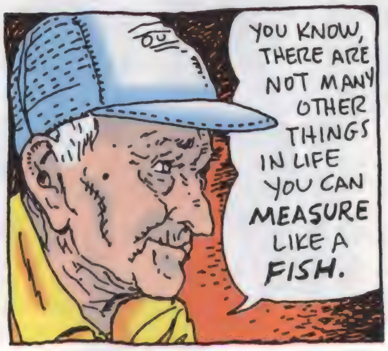


I SEE **MARIEL HEMINGWAY** EVERY YEAR. I'VE SEEN **ALL** HER MOVIES. HOW COULD I GET AWAY WITH **NOT** SEEING THEM?

HE'S 97.

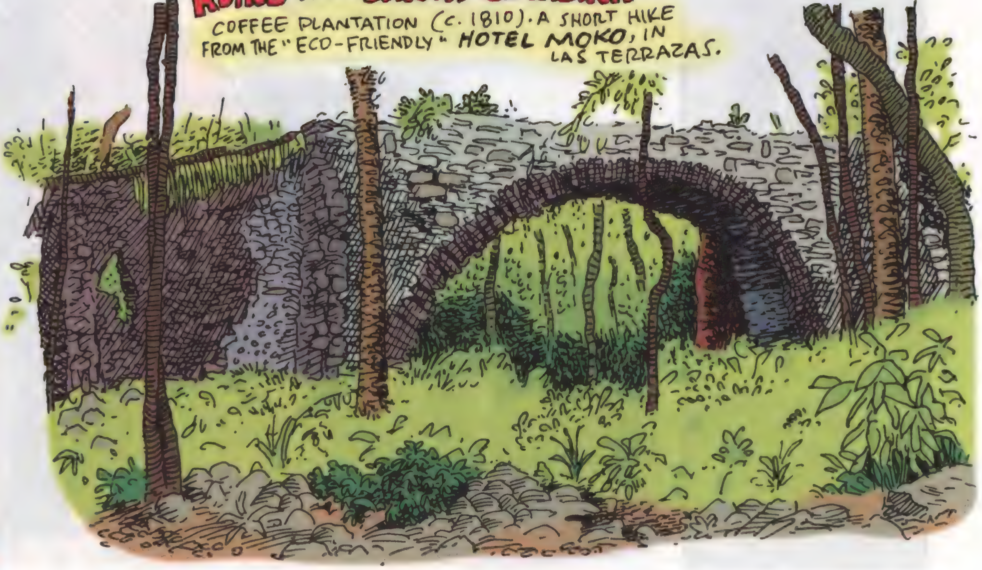


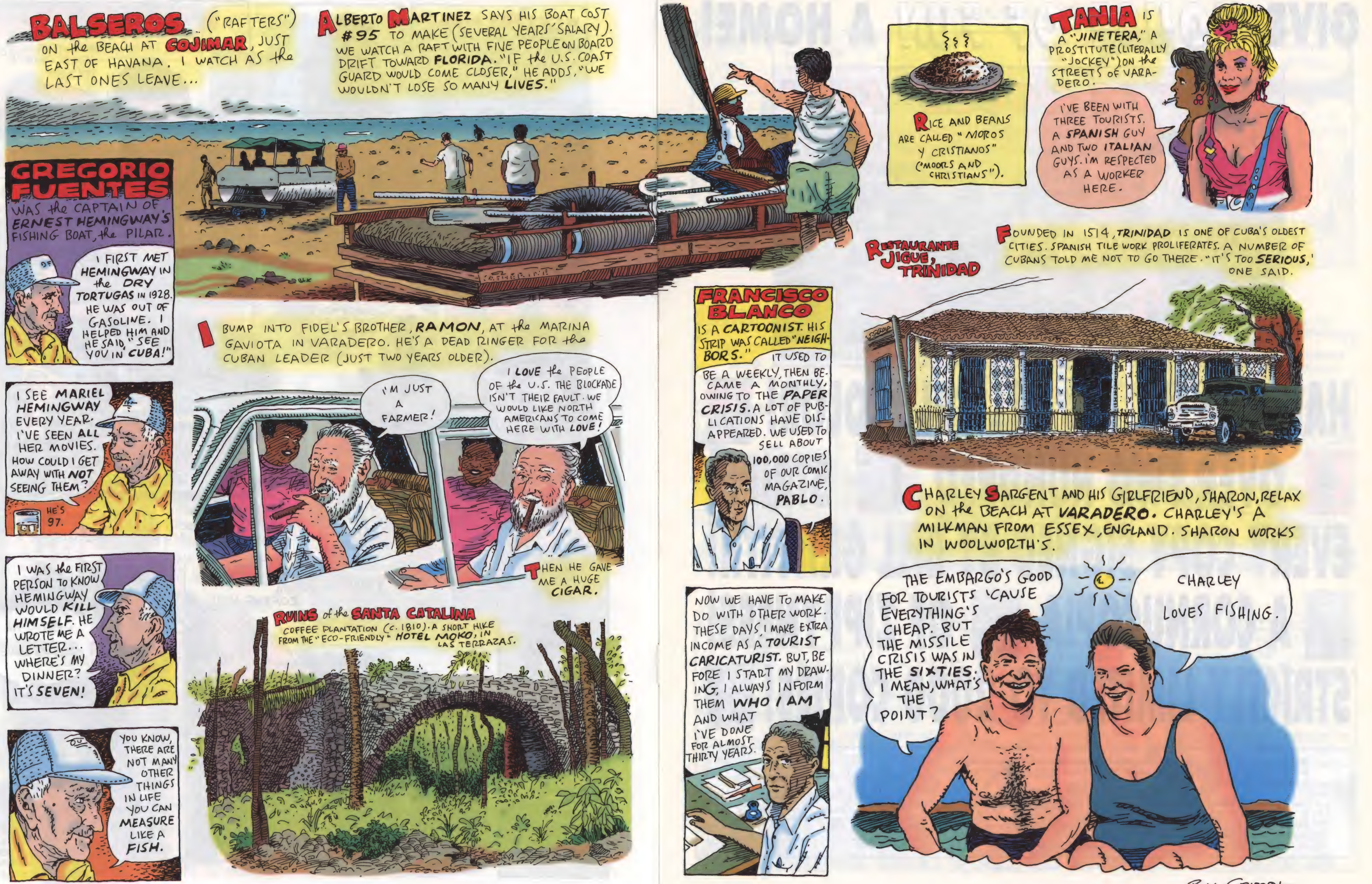
I WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO KNOW HEMINGWAY WOULD **KILL HIMSELF**. HE WROTE ME A LETTER... WHERE'S MY DINNER? IT'S **SEVEN**!



YOU KNOW, THERE ARE NOT MANY OTHER THINGS IN LIFE YOU CAN **MEASURE** LIKE A **FISH**.

RUINS OF THE **SANTA CATALINA** COFFEE PLANTATION (C. 1810). A SHORT HIKE FROM THE "ECO-FRIENDLY" **HOTEL MOKO**, IN LAS TERRAZAS.




BALSEROS ("RAFTERS") ON the BEACH AT COJIMAR, JUST EAST OF HAVANA. I WATCH AS the LAST ONES LEAVE...
ALBERTO MARTINEZ SAYS HIS BOAT COST #95 TO MAKE (SEVERAL YEARS' SALARY). WE WATCH A RAFT WITH FIVE PEOPLE ON BOARD DRIFT TOWARD FLORIDA. "IF the U.S. COAST GUARD WOULD COME CLOSER," HE ADDS, "WE WOULDN'T LOSE SO MANY LIVES."
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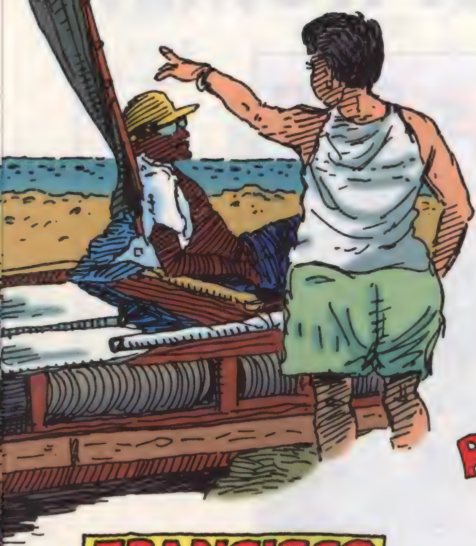
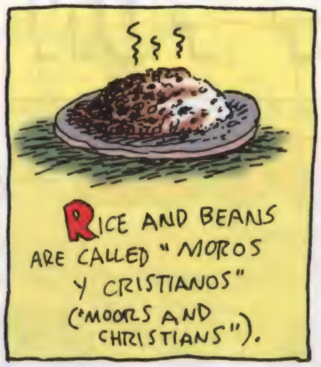
RUINS of the SANTA CATALINA COFFEE PLANTATION (c. 1810). A SHORT HIKE FROM THE "ECO-FRIENDLY" HOTEL MOKO, IN LAS TERRAZAS.
RICE AND BEANS ARE CALLED "MOROS Y CRISTIANOS" ("MOORS AND CHRISTIANS").
TANIA IS A "JINETERA," A PROSTITUTE (LITERALLY "JOCKEY"), ON the STREETS OF VARADERO.
I'VE BEEN WITH THREE TOURISTS. A SPANISH GUY AND TWO ITALIAN GUYS. I'M RESPECTED AS A WORKER HERE.
RESTAURANTE JIGUE, TRINIDAD
FOUNDED IN 1514, TRINIDAD IS ONE OF CUBA'S OLDEST CITIES. SPANISH TILE WORK PROLIFERATES. A NUMBER OF CUBANS TOLD ME NOT TO GO THERE. "IT'S TOO SERIOUS," ONE SAID.
FRANCISCO BLANCO IS A CARTOONIST. HIS STRIP WAS CALLED "NEIGHBORS." IT USED TO BE A WEEKLY, THEN BECAME A MONTHLY, OWING TO THE PAPER CRISIS. A LOT OF PUBLICATIONS HAVE DISAPPEARED. WE USED TO SELL ABOUT 100,000 COPIES OF OUR COMIC MAGAZINE, PABLO.
NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH OTHER WORK. THESE DAYS, I MAKE EXTRA INCOME AS A TOURIST CARICATURIST. BUT, BEFORE I START MY DRAWING, I ALWAYS INFORM THEM WHO I AM AND WHAT I'VE DONE FOR ALMOST THIRTY YEARS.
CHARLEY SARGENT AND HIS GIRLFRIEND, SHARON, RELAX ON the BEACH AT VARADERO. CHARLEY'S A MILKMAN FROM ESSEX, ENGLAND. SHARON WORKS IN WOOLWORTH'S.
THE EMBARGO'S GOOD FOR TOURISTS 'CAUSE EVERYTHING'S CHEAP. BUT THE MISSILE CRISIS WAS IN THE SIXTIES. I MEAN, WHAT'S THE POINT?
CHARLEY LOVES FISHING.
BILL GRIFFITH





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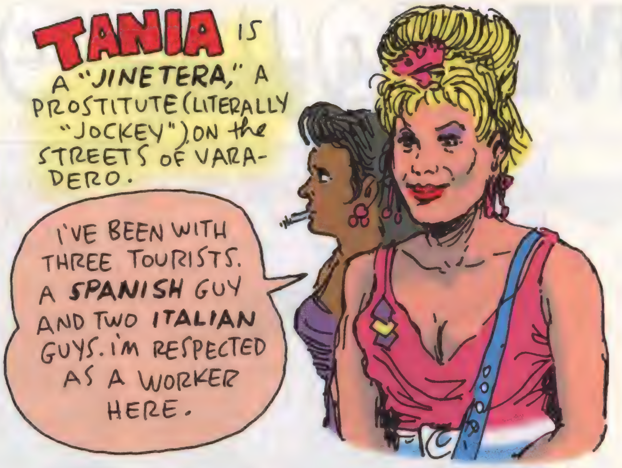

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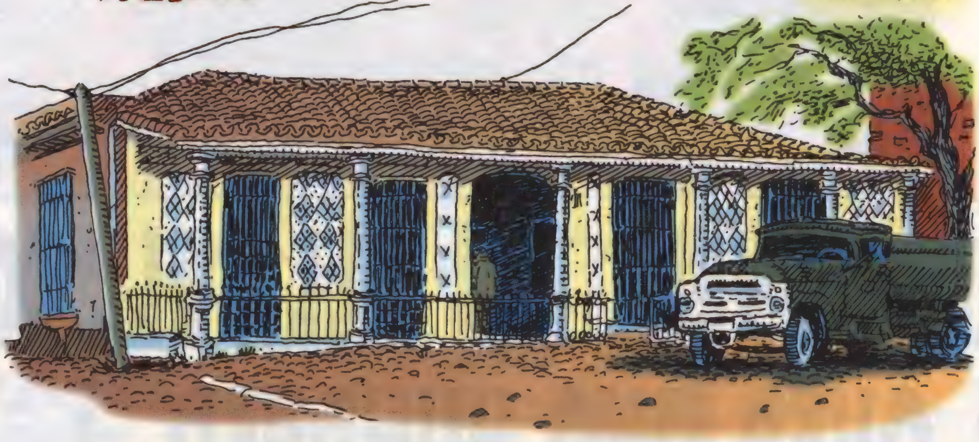

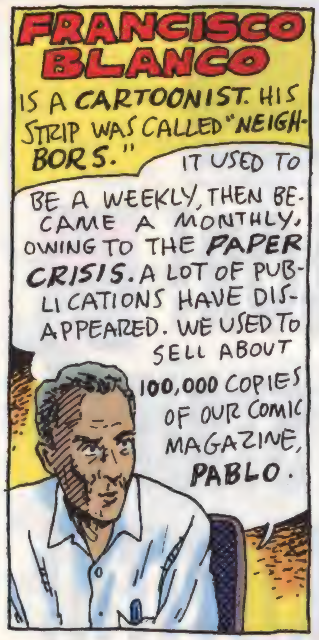

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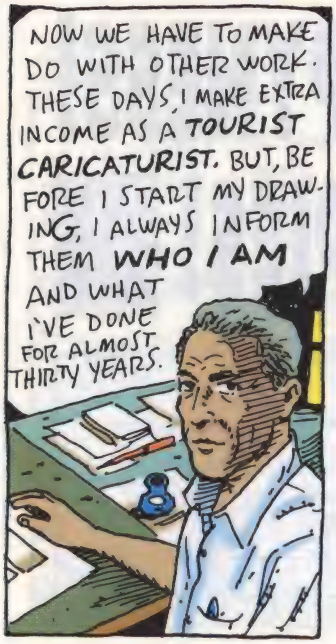

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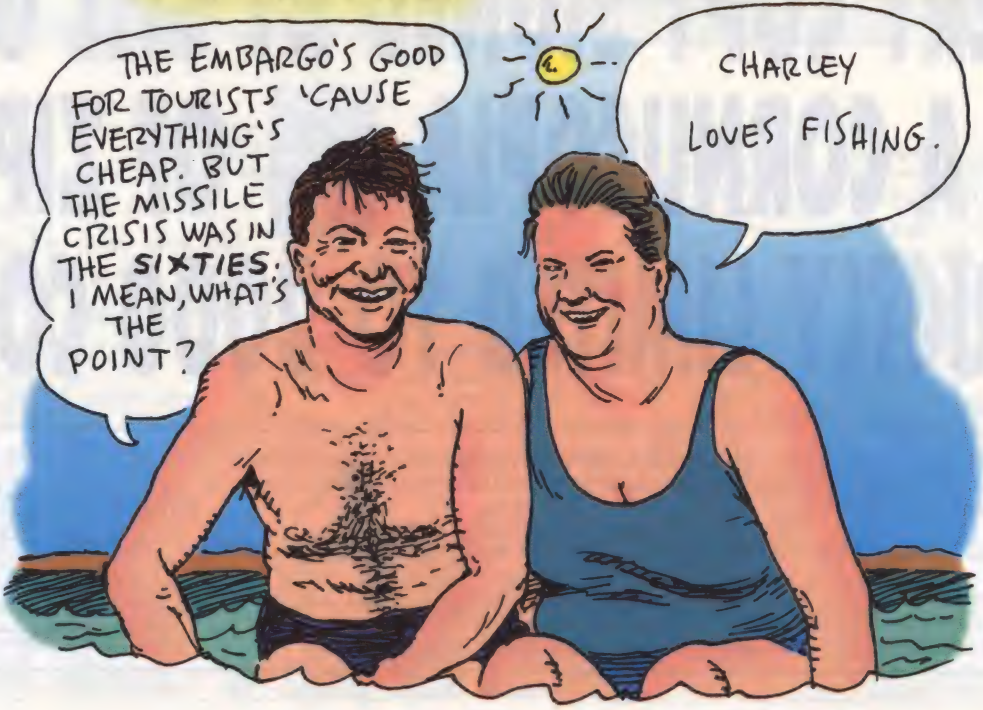

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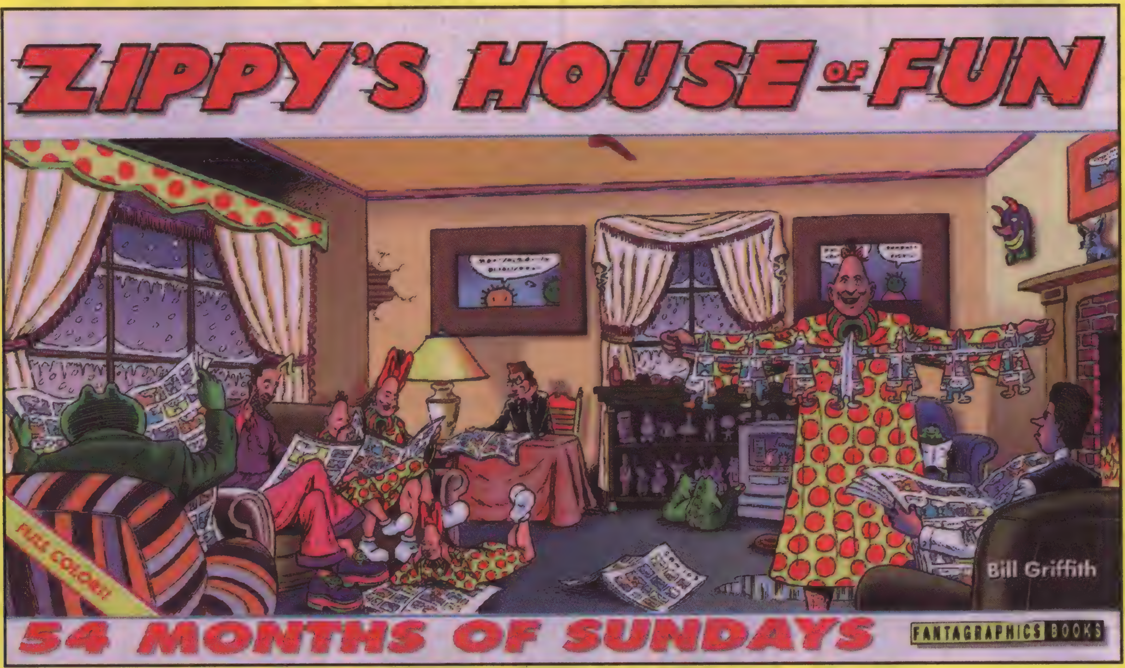
BILL GRIFFITH

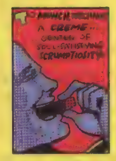
GIVE HOUSE OF FUN A HOME!


ZIPPY'S HOUSE OF FUN
FULL COLOR!!
Bill Griffith
54 MONTHS OF SUNDAYS
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

HARDCOVER!

GO ON, ZIP! DIVE IN!! WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?
I'M AFRAID IT'S ALL JUST A FIGMENT OF MY IMAGINATION!

ALL FULL COLOR!


A CREME... CENTER OF SOUL-SATISFYING SCRUMPTIOSITY

OVER TWO HUNDRED

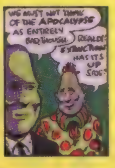
WHAT'S THAT, ZIPPY?
YELLOW!

STRIPS!

EVERY COPY SIGNED BY BILL GRIFFITH!

COULD BE A TOUGH RACE. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT TH' OPPOSITION?
I'M READY AND MY WARDROBE IS READY!

A CORNUCOPIA


WE MUST NOT THINK OF THE APOCALYPSE AS ENTIRELY BAD THOUGH.
REALLY? EXTINCTION HAS ITS UP SIDE?

OF ZIPPYNESS!

STRICTLY LIMITED TO 2000 COPIES!

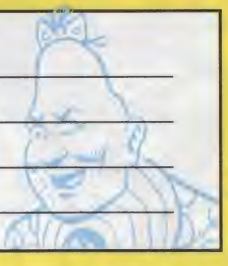
NICE VENTRILOQUIST ACT, ZIP!
ACT? FRIGID DEED RONEY BENT FEAT.

☐ YES! My house is not a home without ZIPPY'S HOUSE OF FUN on the bookshelf! I have enclosed $43.95 ($39.95 + $4.00 shipping) for one copy of ZIPPY'S HOUSE OF FUN (outside U.S. and Canada, $45.95 postpaid).

☐ I would like to put this order on my ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard. Here is the information you need:

Card number ______________________________ expires ____________________

Send all orders to FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, DEPT. Z, 7563 LAKE CITY WAY NE, SEATTLE WA 98115 or phone in your credit card orders to 800-657-1100. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of your books.

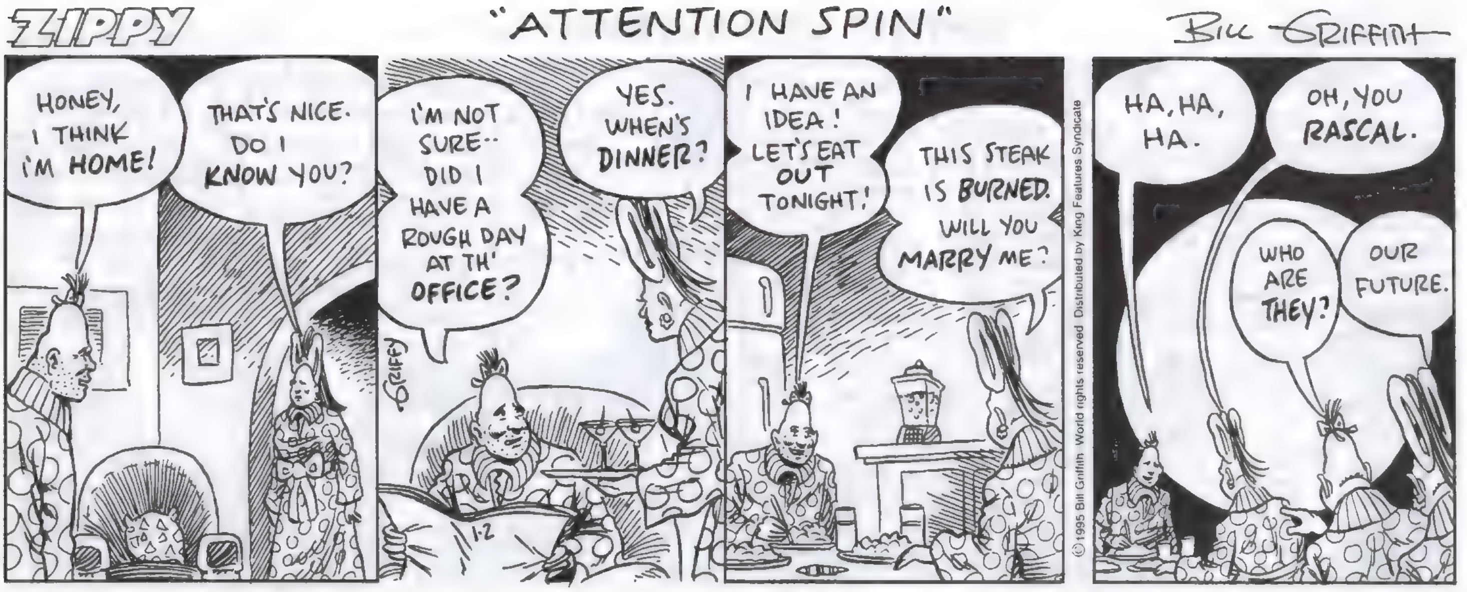


Name

Address

City

State/ ZIPPYCODE


ZIPPY
"ATTENTION SPIN"
BILL GRIFFITH
HONEY, I THINK I'M HOME!
THAT'S NICE. DO I KNOW YOU?
I'M NOT SURE-- DID I HAVE A ROUGH DAY AT TH' OFFICE?
YES. WHEN'S DINNER?
GRIFFY
1·2
I HAVE AN IDEA! LET'S EAT OUT TONIGHT!
THIS STEAK IS BURNED. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
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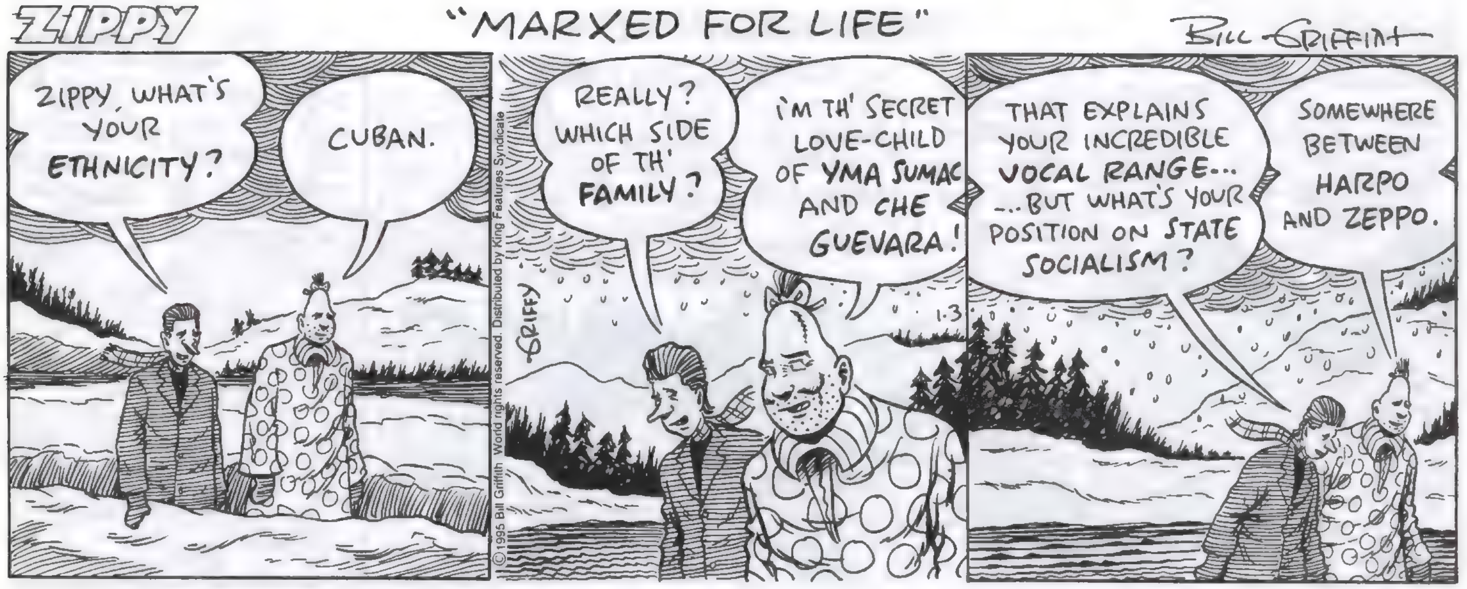
HA, HA, HA.
OH, YOU RASCAL.
WHO ARE THEY?
OUR FUTURE.


ZIPPY
"MARXED FOR LIFE"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY, WHAT'S YOUR ETHNICITY?
CUBAN.
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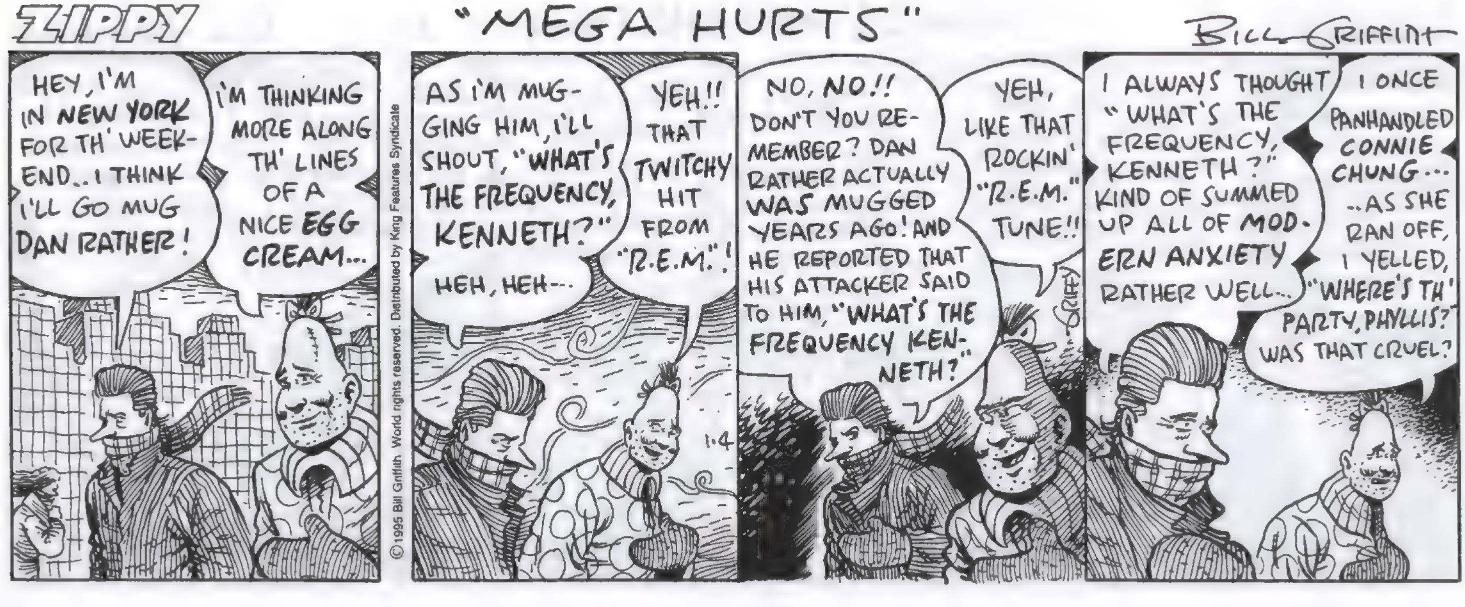
REALLY? WHICH SIDE OF TH' FAMILY?
I'M TH' SECRET LOVE-CHILD OF YMA SUMAC AND CHE GUEVARA!
GRIFFY
1·3
THAT EXPLAINS YOUR INCREDIBLE VOCAL RANGE... ...BUT WHAT'S YOUR POSITION ON STATE SOCIALISM?
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN HARPO AND ZEPPO.


ZIPPY
"MEGA HURTS"
BILL GRIFFITH
HEY, I'M IN NEW YORK FOR TH' WEEKEND.. I THINK I'LL GO MUG DAN RATHER!
I'M THINKING MORE ALONG TH' LINES OF A NICE EGG CREAM...
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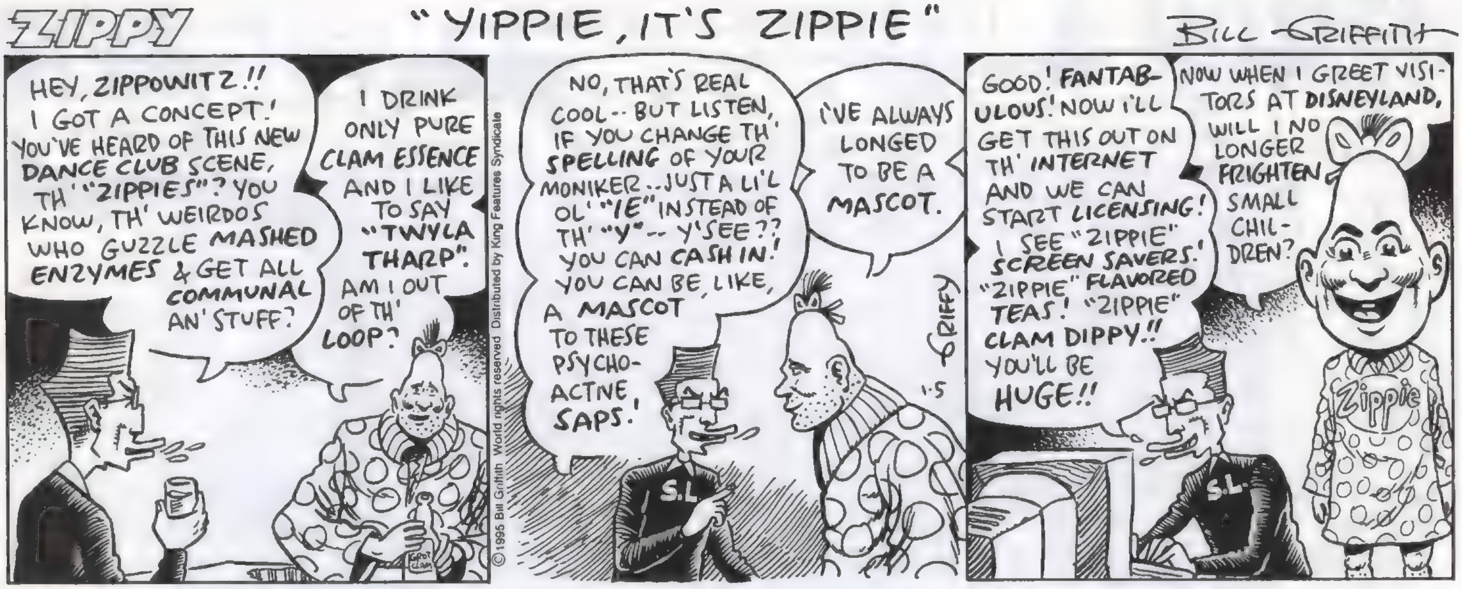
AS I'M MUGGING HIM, I'LL SHOUT, "WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY, KENNETH?" HEH, HEH--
YEH!! THAT TWITCHY HIT FROM "R.E.M."!
1·4
NO, NO!! DON'T YOU REMEMBER? DAN RATHER ACTUALLY WAS MUGGED YEARS AGO! AND HE REPORTED THAT HIS ATTACKER SAID TO HIM, "WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY KENNETH?"
YEH, LIKE THAT ROCKIN' "R.E.M." TUNE!!
GRIFFY
I ALWAYS THOUGHT "WHAT'S THE FREQUENCY, KENNETH?" KIND OF SUMMED UP ALL OF MODERN ANXIETY RATHER WELL...
I ONCE PANHANDLED CONNIE CHUNG... ..AS SHE RAN OFF, I YELLED, "WHERE'S TH' PARTY, PHYLLIS?" WAS THAT CRUEL?


ZIPPY
"YIPPIE, IT'S ZIPPIE"
BILL GRIFFITH
HEY, ZIPPOWITZ!! I GOT A CONCEPT! YOU'VE HEARD OF THIS NEW DANCE CLUB SCENE, TH' "ZIPPIES"? YOU KNOW, TH' WEIRDOS WHO GUZZLE MASHED ENZYMES & GET ALL COMMUNAL AN' STUFF?
I DRINK ONLY PURE CLAM ESSENCE AND I LIKE TO SAY "TWYLA THARP". AM I OUT OF TH' LOOP?
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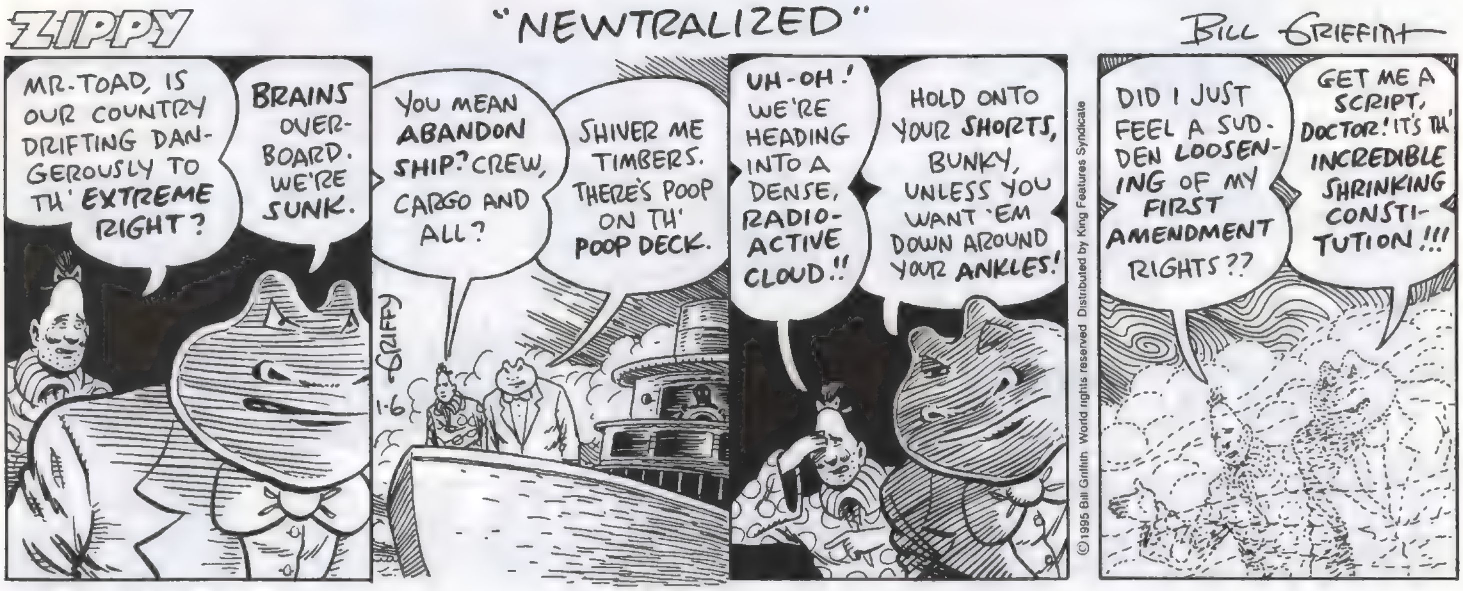
NO, THAT'S REAL COOL-- BUT LISTEN, IF YOU CHANGE TH' SPELLING OF YOUR MONIKER...JUST A LI'L OL' "IE" INSTEAD OF TH' "Y"-- Y'SEE?? YOU CAN CASH IN! YOU CAN BE, LIKE, A MASCOT TO THESE PSYCHO-ACTIVE SAPS!
I'VE ALWAYS LONGED TO BE A MASCOT.
GRIFFY
1·5
S.L.
GOOD! FANTABULOUS! NOW I'LL GET THIS OUT ON TH' INTERNET AND WE CAN START LICENSING! I SEE "ZIPPIE" SCREEN SAVERS! "ZIPPIE" FLAVORED TEAS! "ZIPPIE" CLAM DIPPY!! YOU'LL BE HUGE!!
NOW WHEN I GREET VISITORS AT DISNEYLAND, WILL I NO LONGER FRIGHTEN SMALL CHILDREN?
S.L.
Zippie


ZIPPY
"NEWTRALIZED"
BILL GRIFFITH
MR. TOAD, IS OUR COUNTRY DRIFTING DANGEROUSLY TO TH' EXTREME RIGHT?
BRAINS OVERBOARD. WE'RE SUNK.
YOU MEAN ABANDON SHIP? CREW, CARGO AND ALL?
SHIVER ME TIMBERS. THERE'S POOP ON TH' POOP DECK.
GRIFFY
1·6
UH-OH! WE'RE HEADING INTO A DENSE, RADIOACTIVE CLOUD!!
HOLD ONTO YOUR SHORTS, BUNKY, UNLESS YOU WANT 'EM DOWN AROUND YOUR ANKLES!
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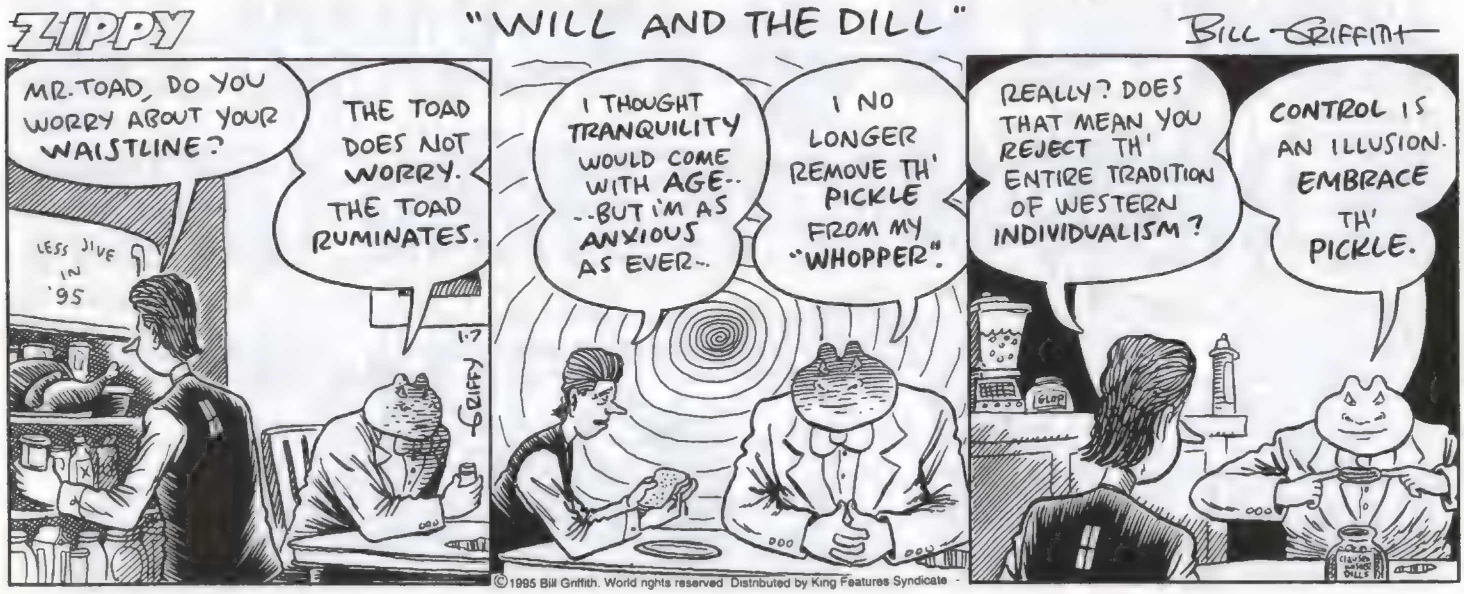
DID I JUST FEEL A SUDDEN LOOSENING OF MY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS??
GET ME A SCRIPT, DOCTOR! IT'S TH' INCREDIBLE SHRINKING CONSTITUTION!!!


ZIPPY
"WILL AND THE DILL"
BILL GRIFFITH
MR. TOAD, DO YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR WAISTLINE?
THE TOAD DOES NOT WORRY. THE TOAD RUMINATES.
LESS JIVE IN '95
1·7
GRIFFY
I THOUGHT TRANQUILITY WOULD COME WITH AGE-- --BUT I'M AS ANXIOUS AS EVER--
I NO LONGER REMOVE TH' PICKLE FROM MY "WHOPPER".
REALLY? DOES THAT MEAN YOU REJECT TH' ENTIRE TRADITION OF WESTERN INDIVIDUALISM?
CONTROL IS AN ILLUSION. EMBRACE TH' PICKLE.
GLOP
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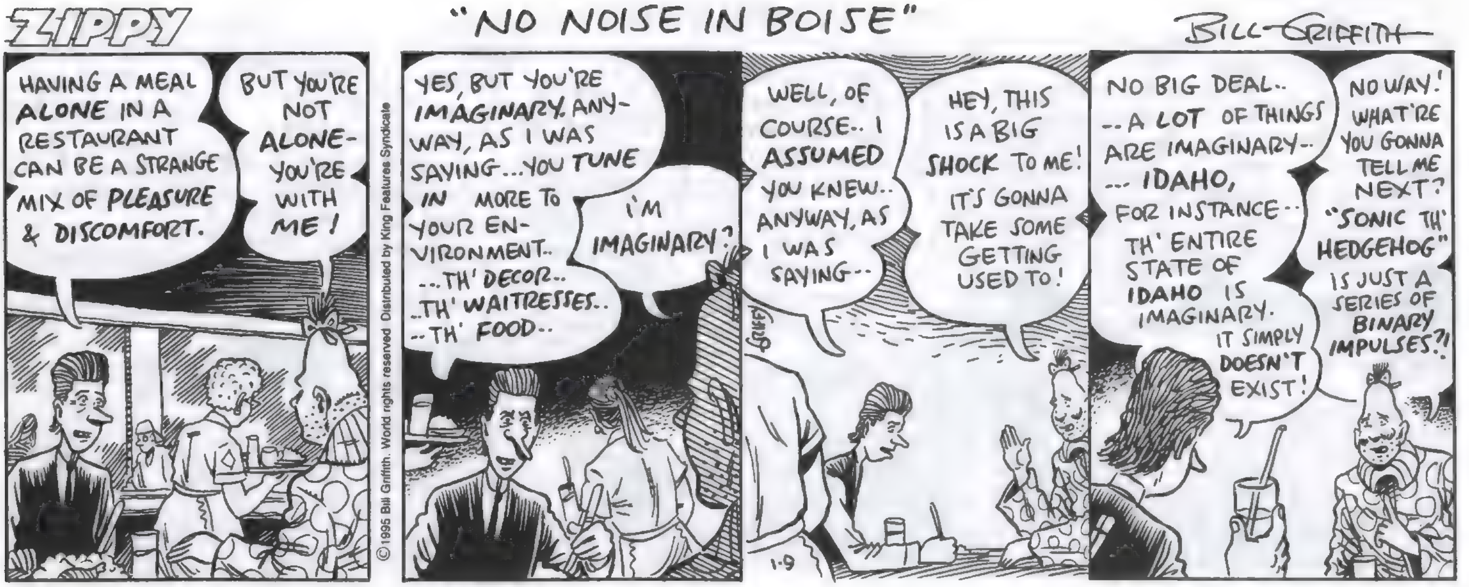
ZIPPY
"NO NOISE IN BOISE"
BILL GRIFFITH
HAVING A MEAL ALONE IN A RESTAURANT CAN BE A STRANGE MIX OF PLEASURE & DISCOMFORT.
BUT YOU'RE NOT ALONE- YOU'RE WITH ME!
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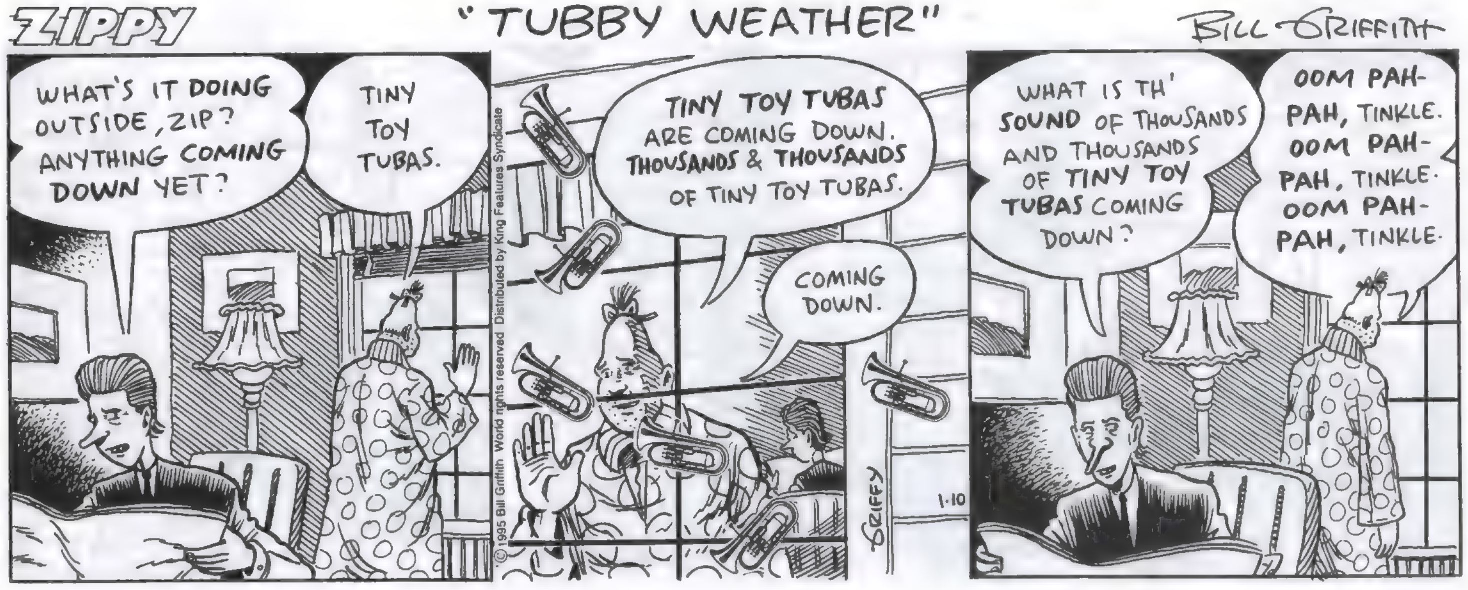
YES, BUT YOU'RE IMAGINARY. ANYWAY, AS I WAS SAYING... YOU TUNE IN MORE TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT.. ...TH' DECOR.. ..TH' WAITRESSES.. --TH' FOOD--
I'M IMAGINARY?
WELL, OF COURSE.. I ASSUMED YOU KNEW.. ANYWAY, AS I WAS SAYING--
HEY, THIS IS A BIG SHOCK TO ME! IT'S GONNA TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO!
GRIFFY
1-9
NO BIG DEAL.. --A LOT OF THINGS ARE IMAGINARY.. --- IDAHO, FOR INSTANCE.. TH' ENTIRE STATE OF IDAHO IS IMAGINARY. IT SIMPLY DOESN'T EXIST!
NO WAY! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA TELL ME NEXT? "SONIC TH' HEDGEHOG" IS JUST A SERIES OF BINARY IMPULSES?!


ZIPPY
"TUBBY WEATHER"
BILL GRIFFITH
WHAT'S IT DOING OUTSIDE, ZIP? ANYTHING COMING DOWN YET?
TINY TOY TUBAS.
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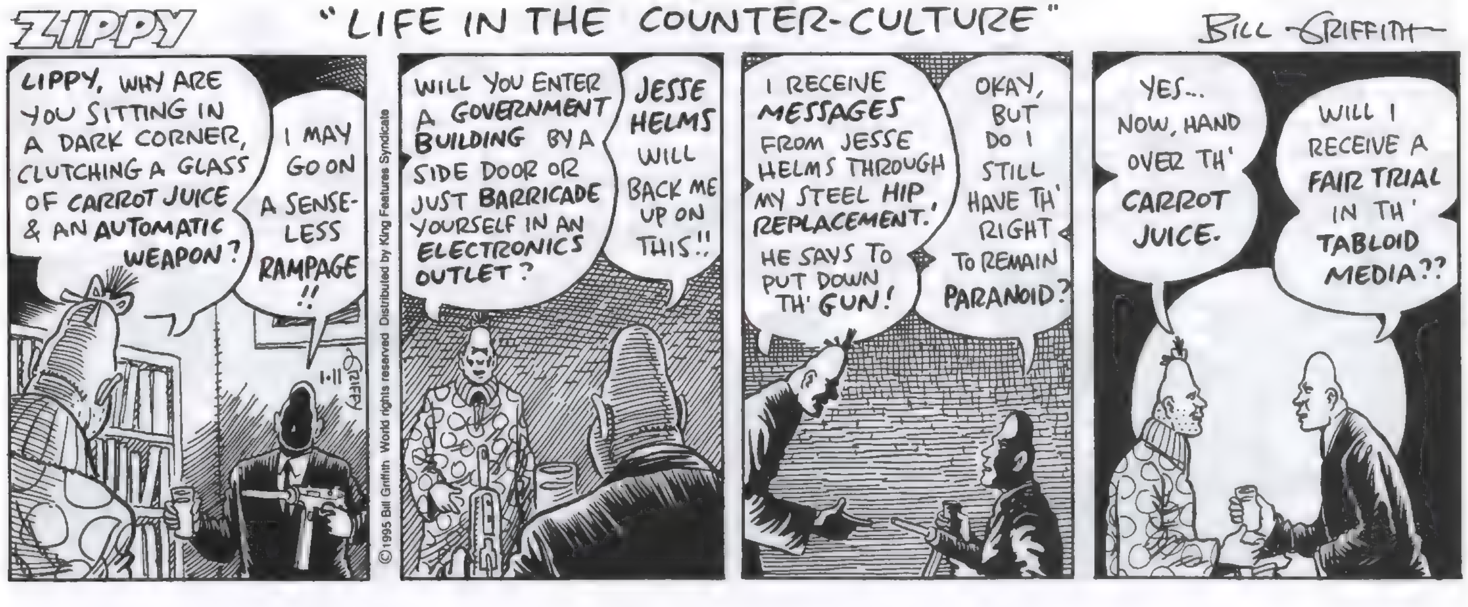
TINY TOY TUBAS ARE COMING DOWN. THOUSANDS & THOUSANDS OF TINY TOY TUBAS.
COMING DOWN.
GRIFFY
1-10
WHAT IS TH' SOUND OF THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF TINY TOY TUBAS COMING DOWN?
OOM PAH-PAH, TINKLE. OOM PAH-PAH, TINKLE. OOM PAH-PAH, TINKLE.


ZIPPY
"LIFE IN THE COUNTER-CULTURE"
BILL GRIFFITH
LIPPY, WHY ARE YOU SITTING IN A DARK CORNER, CLUTCHING A GLASS OF CARROT JUICE & AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON?
I MAY GO ON A SENSELESS RAMPAGE!!
1-11
GRIFFY
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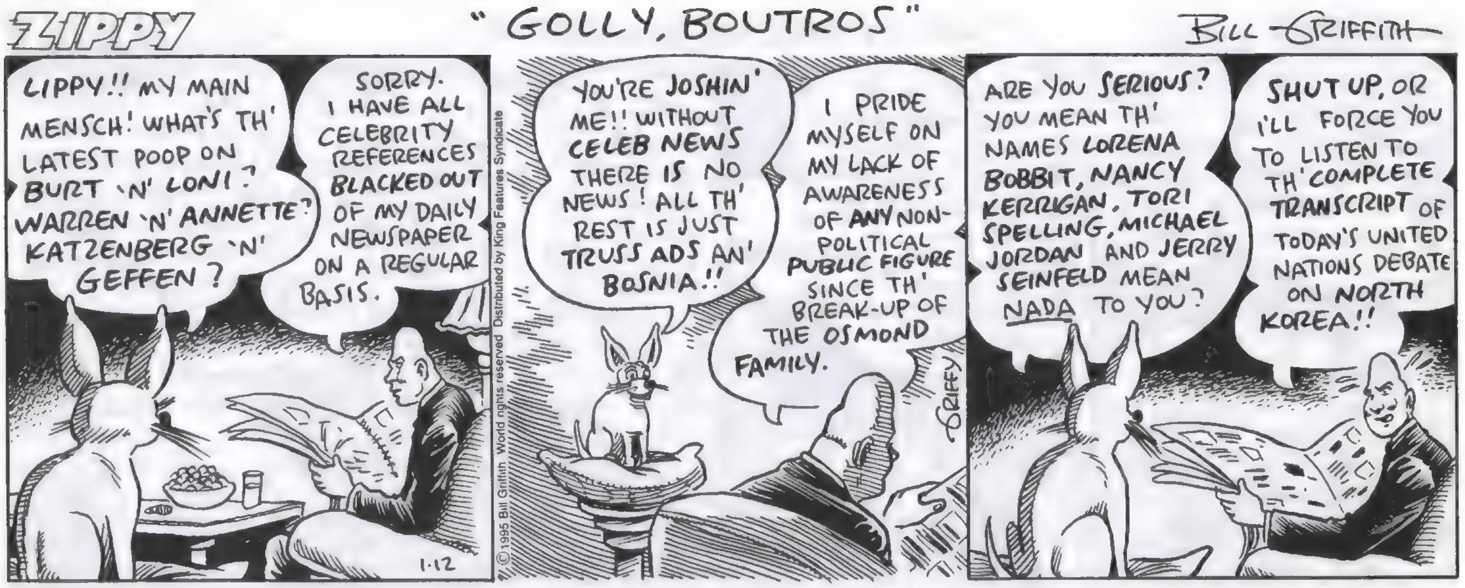
WILL YOU ENTER A GOVERNMENT BUILDING BY A SIDE DOOR OR JUST BARRICADE YOURSELF IN AN ELECTRONICS OUTLET?
JESSE HELMS WILL BACK ME UP ON THIS!!
I RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM JESSE HELMS THROUGH MY STEEL HIP REPLACEMENT.
HE SAYS TO PUT DOWN TH' GUN!
OKAY, BUT DO I STILL HAVE TH' RIGHT TO REMAIN PARANOID?
YES... NOW, HAND OVER TH' CARROT JUICE.
WILL I RECEIVE A FAIR TRIAL IN TH' TABLOID MEDIA??


ZIPPY
"GOLLY, BOUTROS"
BILL GRIFFITH
LIPPY!! MY MAIN MENSCH! WHAT'S TH' LATEST POOP ON BURT 'N' LONI? WARREN 'N' ANNETTE? KATZENBERG 'N' GEFFEN?
SORRY. I HAVE ALL CELEBRITY REFERENCES BLACKED OUT OF MY DAILY NEWSPAPER ON A REGULAR BASIS.
1·12
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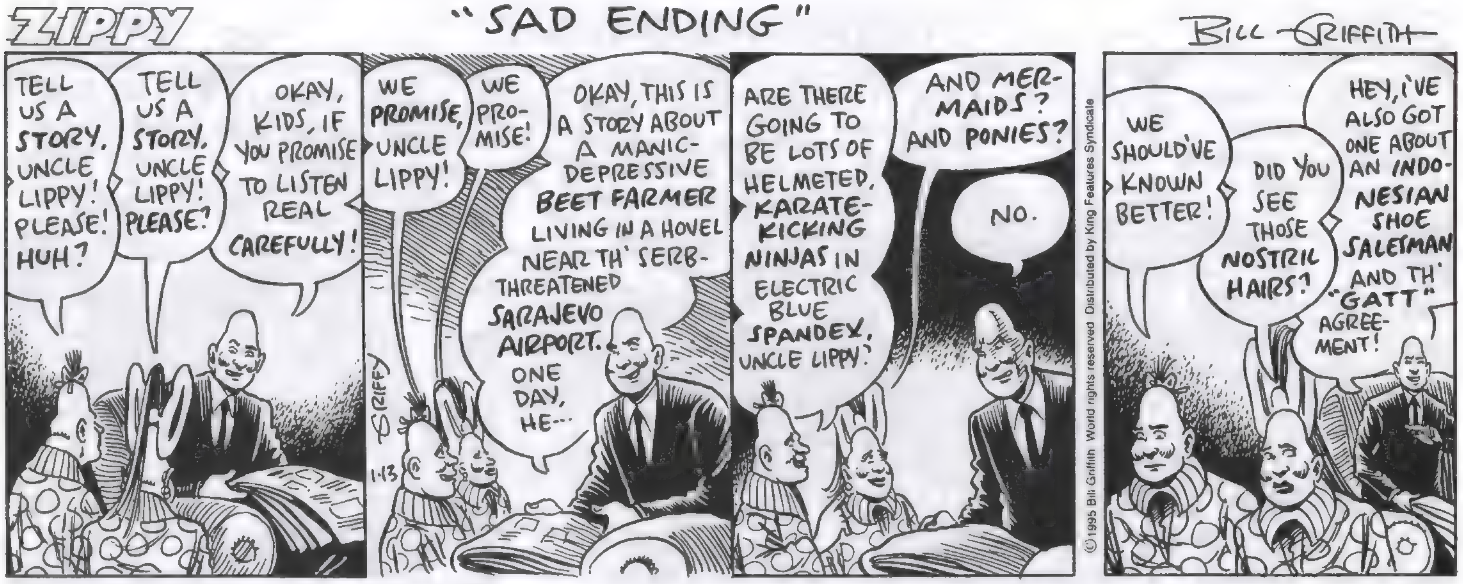
YOU'RE JOSHIN' ME!! WITHOUT CELEB NEWS THERE IS NO NEWS! ALL TH' REST IS JUST TRUSS ADS AN' BOSNIA!!
I PRIDE MYSELF ON MY LACK OF AWARENESS OF ANY NON-POLITICAL PUBLIC FIGURE SINCE TH' BREAK-UP OF THE OSMOND FAMILY.
GRIFFY
ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU MEAN TH' NAMES LORENA BOBBIT, NANCY KERRIGAN, TORI SPELLING, MICHAEL JORDAN AND JERRY SEINFELD MEAN NADA TO YOU?
SHUT UP, OR I'LL FORCE YOU TO LISTEN TO TH' COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF TODAY'S UNITED NATIONS DEBATE ON NORTH KOREA!!


ZIPPY
"SAD ENDING"
BILL GRIFFITH
TELL US A STORY, UNCLE LIPPY! PLEASE! HUH?
TELL US A STORY, UNCLE LIPPY! PLEASE?
OKAY, KIDS, IF YOU PROMISE TO LISTEN REAL CAREFULLY!
WE PROMISE, UNCLE LIPPY!
WE PROMISE!
OKAY, THIS IS A STORY ABOUT A MANIC-DEPRESSIVE BEET FARMER LIVING IN A HOVEL NEAR TH' SERB-THREATENED SARAJEVO AIRPORT. ONE DAY, HE...
GRIFFY
1·13
ARE THERE GOING TO BE LOTS OF HELMETED, KARATE-KICKING NINJAS IN ELECTRIC BLUE SPANDEX, UNCLE LIPPY?
AND MERMAIDS? AND PONIES?
NO.
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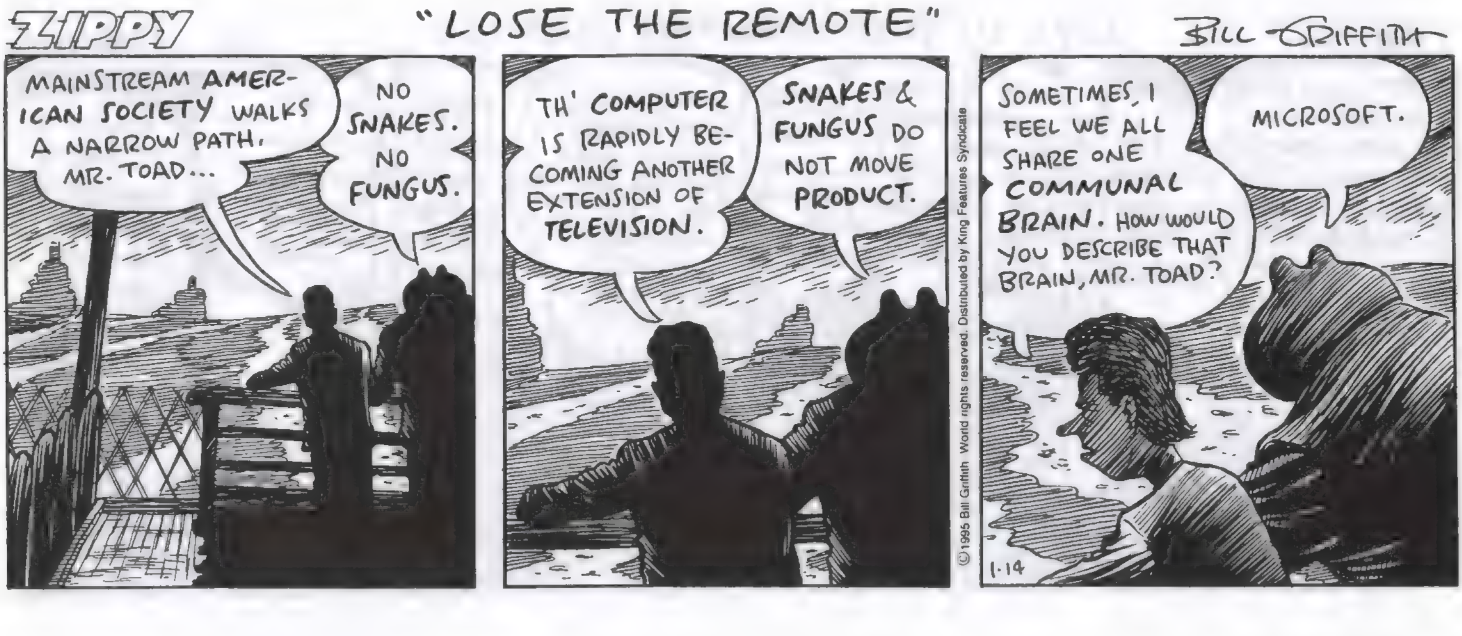
WE SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER!
DID YOU SEE THOSE NOSTRIL HAIRS?
HEY, I'VE ALSO GOT ONE ABOUT AN INDONESIAN SHOE SALESMAN AND TH' "GATT" AGREEMENT!


ZIPPY
"LOSE THE REMOTE"
BILL GRIFFITH
MAINSTREAM AMERICAN SOCIETY WALKS A NARROW PATH, MR. TOAD...
NO SNAKES. NO FUNGUS.
TH' COMPUTER IS RAPIDLY BECOMING ANOTHER EXTENSION OF TELEVISION.
SNAKES & FUNGUS DO NOT MOVE PRODUCT.
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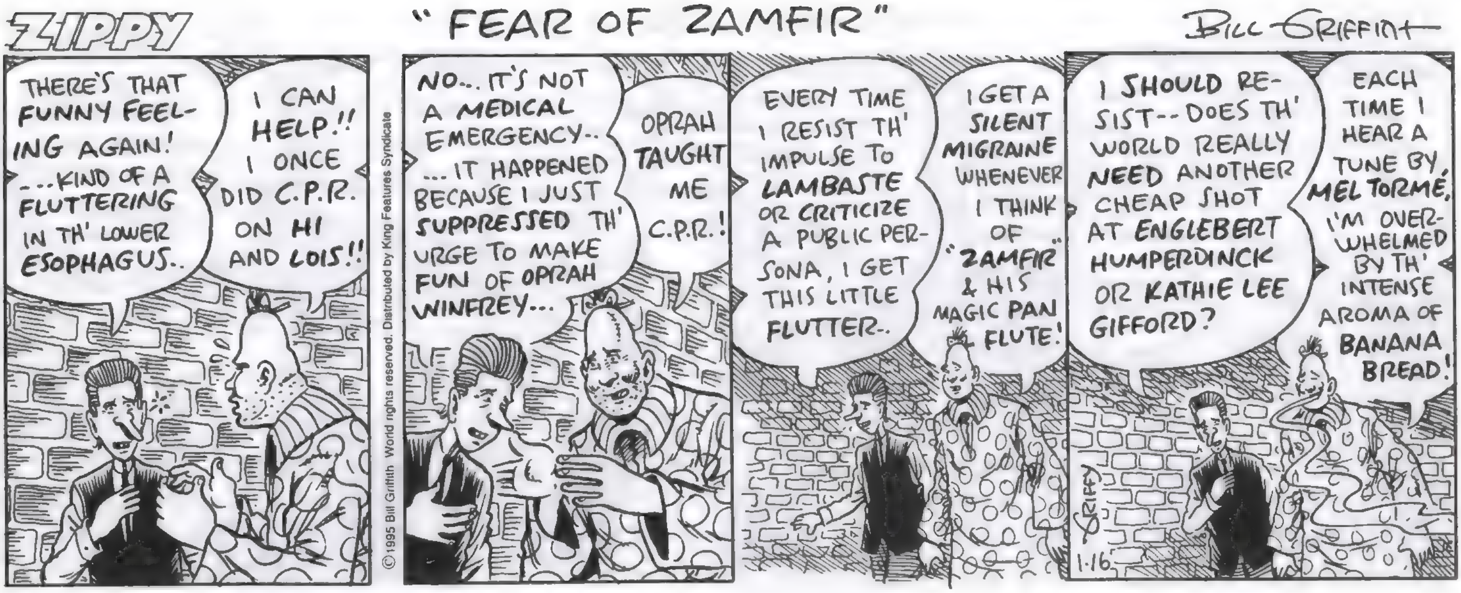
SOMETIMES, I FEEL WE ALL SHARE ONE COMMUNAL BRAIN. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THAT BRAIN, MR. TOAD?
MICROSOFT.
1·14


ZIPPY
"FEAR OF ZAMFIR"
BILL GRIFFITH
THERE'S THAT FUNNY FEELING AGAIN! ...KIND OF A FLUTTERING IN TH' LOWER ESOPHAGUS..
I CAN HELP!! I ONCE DID C.P.R. ON HI AND LOIS!!
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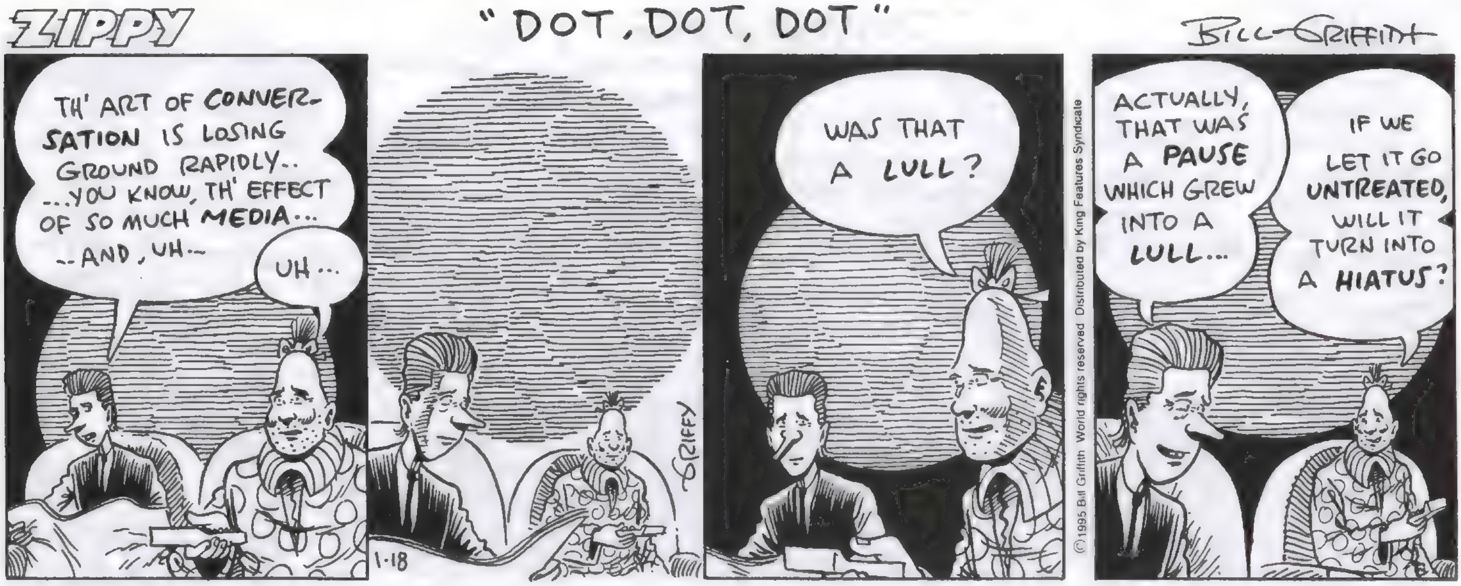
NO... IT'S NOT A MEDICAL EMERGENCY.. ...IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I JUST SUPPRESSED TH' URGE TO MAKE FUN OF OPRAH WINFREY...
OPRAH TAUGHT ME C.P.R.!
EVERY TIME I RESIST TH' IMPULSE TO LAMBASTE OR CRITICIZE A PUBLIC PERSONA, I GET THIS LITTLE FLUTTER..
I GET A SILENT MIGRAINE WHENEVER I THINK OF "ZAMFIR" & HIS MAGIC PAN FLUTE!
I SHOULD RESIST-- DOES TH' WORLD REALLY NEED ANOTHER CHEAP SHOT AT ENGLEBERT HUMPERDINCK OR KATHIE LEE GIFFORD?
EACH TIME I HEAR A TUNE BY MEL TORMÉ, I'M OVERWHELMED BY TH' INTENSE AROMA OF BANANA BREAD!
GRIFFY
1-16


ZIPPY
"DOT, DOT, DOT"
BILL GRIFFITH
TH' ART OF CONVERSATION IS LOSING GROUND RAPIDLY.. ...YOU KNOW, TH' EFFECT OF SO MUCH MEDIA... --AND, UH--
UH...
GRIFFY
1-18
WAS THAT A LULL?
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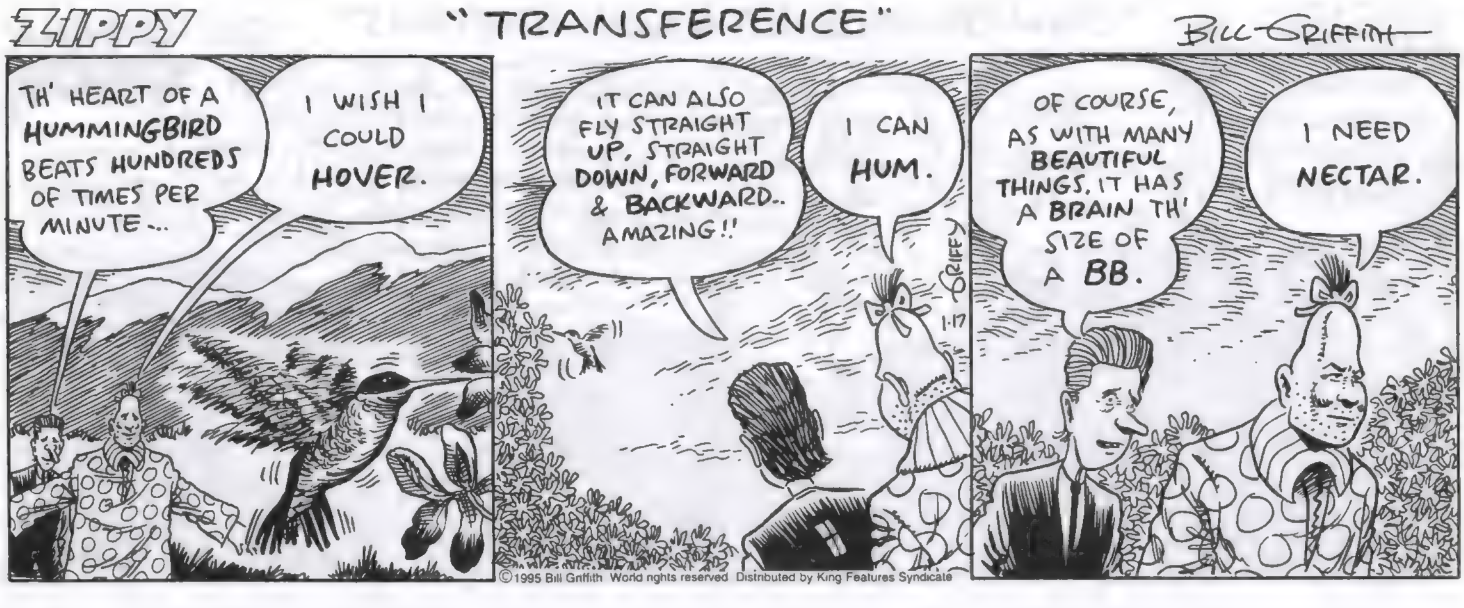
ACTUALLY, THAT WAS A PAUSE WHICH GREW INTO A LULL...
IF WE LET IT GO UNTREATED, WILL IT TURN INTO A HIATUS?


ZIPPY
"TRANSFERENCE"
BILL GRIFFITH
TH' HEART OF A HUMMINGBIRD BEATS HUNDREDS OF TIMES PER MINUTE...
I WISH I COULD HOVER.
IT CAN ALSO FLY STRAIGHT UP, STRAIGHT DOWN, FORWARD & BACKWARD.. AMAZING!!
I CAN HUM.
GRIFFY
1-17
OF COURSE, AS WITH MANY BEAUTIFUL THINGS, IT HAS A BRAIN TH' SIZE OF A BB.
I NEED NECTAR.
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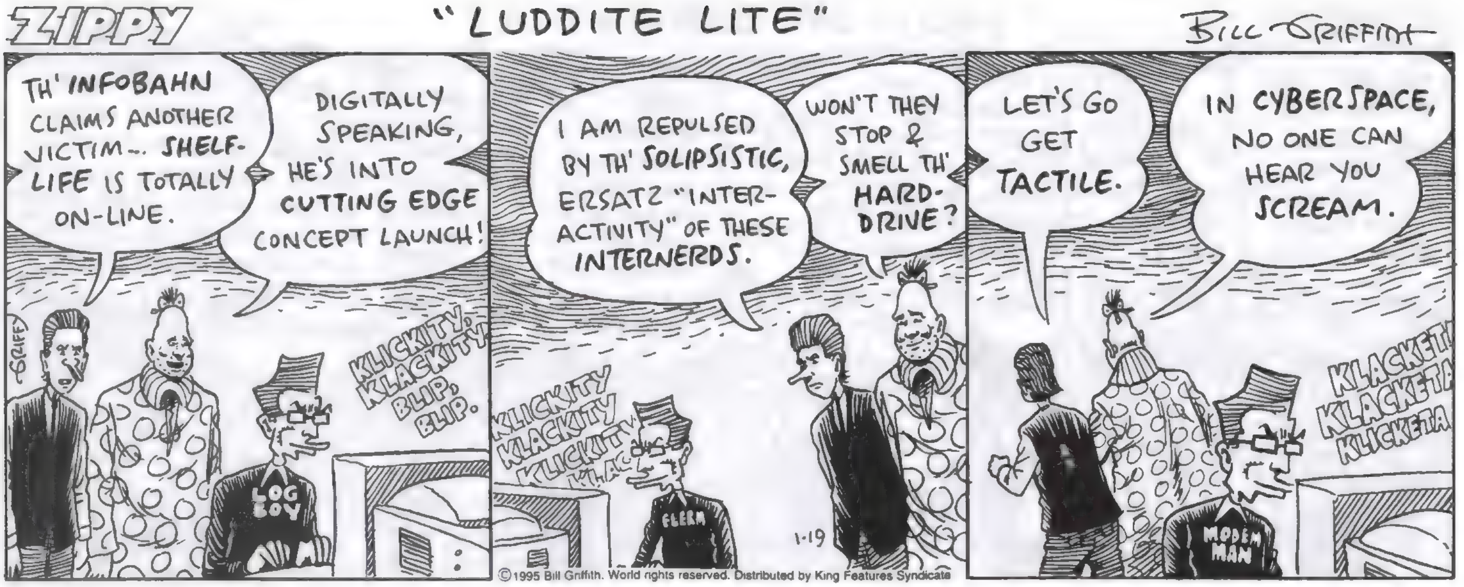
ZIPPY
"LUDDITE LITE"
BILL GRIFFITH
TH' INFOBAHN CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM... SHELF-LIFE IS TOTALLY ON-LINE.
DIGITALLY SPEAKING, HE'S INTO CUTTING EDGE CONCEPT LAUNCH!
GRIFFY
LOG BOY
KLICKITY, KLACKITY, BLIP, BLIP.
I AM REPULSED BY TH' SOLIPSISTIC, ERSATZ "INTER-ACTIVITY" OF THESE INTERNERDS.
WON'T THEY STOP & SMELL TH' HARD-DRIVE?
KLICKITY KLACKITY KLICKITY KLAC
GLEEM
1-19
LET'S GO GET TACTILE.
IN CYBERSPACE, NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU SCREAM.
KLACKETA KLACKETA KLICKETA
MODEM MAN
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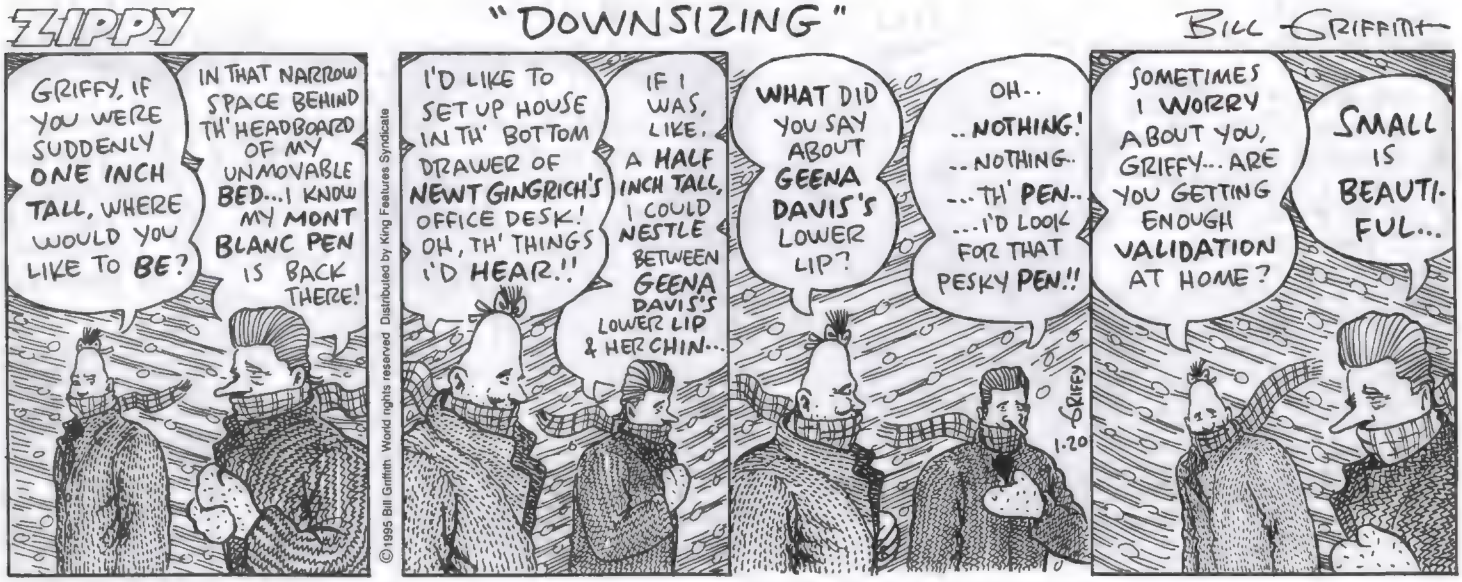
ZIPPY
"DOWNSIZING"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY, IF YOU WERE SUDDENLY ONE INCH TALL, WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?
IN THAT NARROW SPACE BEHIND TH' HEADBOARD OF MY UNMOVABLE BED...I KNOW MY MONT BLANC PEN IS BACK THERE!
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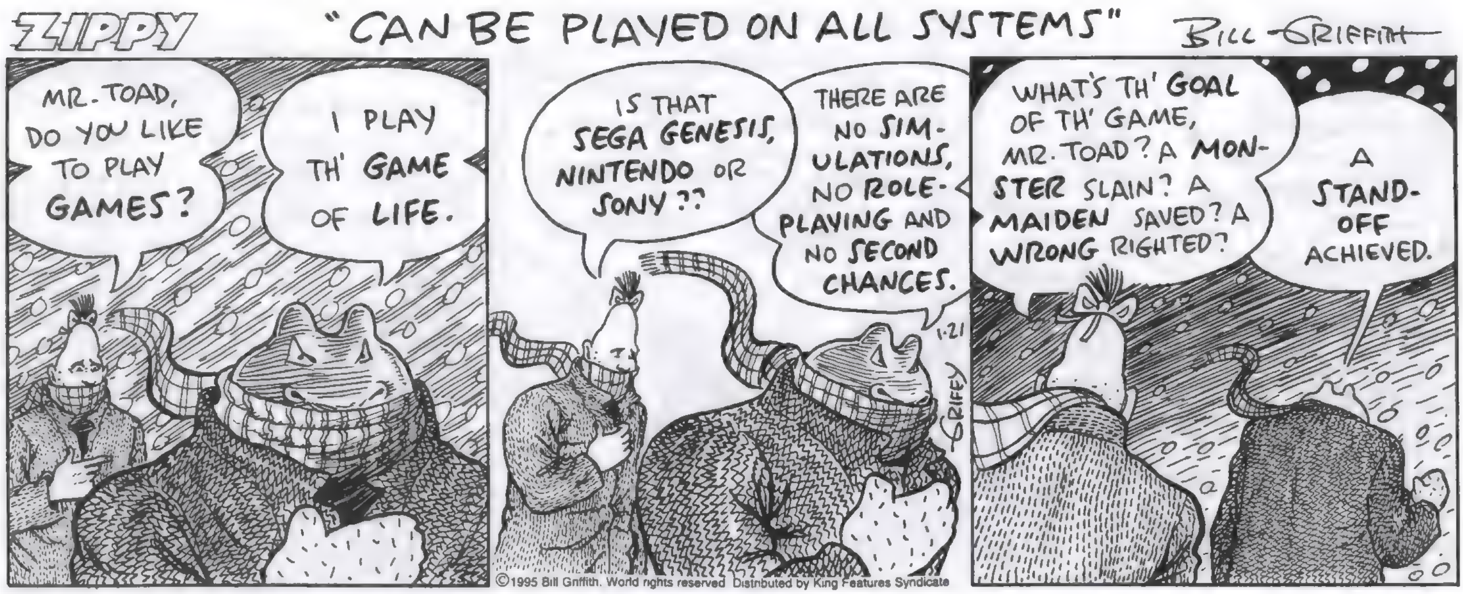
I'D LIKE TO SET UP HOUSE IN TH' BOTTOM DRAWER OF NEWT GINGRICH'S OFFICE DESK! OH, TH' THINGS I'D HEAR!!
IF I WAS, LIKE, A HALF INCH TALL, I COULD NESTLE BETWEEN GEENA DAVIS'S LOWER LIP & HER CHIN...
WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT GEENA DAVIS'S LOWER LIP?
OH.. ..NOTHING! ..NOTHING.. ...TH' PEN... ...I'D LOOK FOR THAT PESKY PEN!!
GRIFFY
1-20
SOMETIMES I WORRY ABOUT YOU, GRIFFY... ARE YOU GETTING ENOUGH VALIDATION AT HOME?
SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL...


ZIPPY
"CAN BE PLAYED ON ALL SYSTEMS"
BILL GRIFFITH
MR. TOAD, DO YOU LIKE TO PLAY GAMES?
I PLAY TH' GAME OF LIFE.
IS THAT SEGA GENESIS, NINTENDO OR SONY??
THERE ARE NO SIMULATIONS, NO ROLE-PLAYING AND NO SECOND CHANCES.
1-21
GRIFFY
WHAT'S TH' GOAL OF TH' GAME, MR. TOAD? A MONSTER SLAIN? A MAIDEN SAVED? A WRONG RIGHTED?
A STAND-OFF ACHIEVED.
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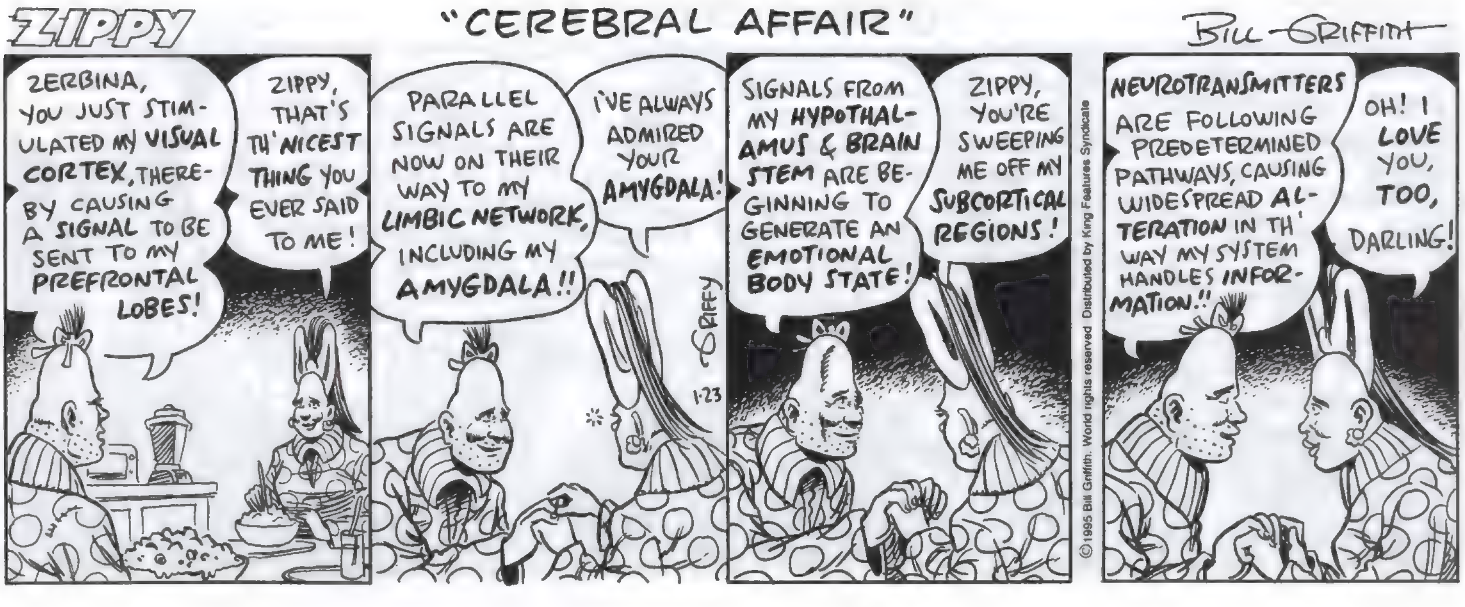
ZIPPY
"CEREBRAL AFFAIR"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZERBINA, YOU JUST STIMULATED MY VISUAL CORTEX, THEREBY CAUSING A SIGNAL TO BE SENT TO MY PREFRONTAL LOBES!
ZIPPY, THAT'S TH' NICEST THING YOU EVER SAID TO ME!
PARALLEL SIGNALS ARE NOW ON THEIR WAY TO MY LIMBIC NETWORK, INCLUDING MY AMYGDALA!!
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOUR AMYGDALA!
GRIFFY
1-23
SIGNALS FROM MY HYPOTHALAMUS & BRAIN STEM ARE BEGINNING TO GENERATE AN EMOTIONAL BODY STATE!
ZIPPY, YOU'RE SWEEPING ME OFF MY SUBCORTICAL REGIONS!
NEUROTRANSMITTERS ARE FOLLOWING PREDETERMINED PATHWAYS, CAUSING WIDESPREAD ALTERATION IN TH' WAY MY SYSTEM HANDLES INFORMATION!!
OH! I LOVE YOU, TOO, DARLING!

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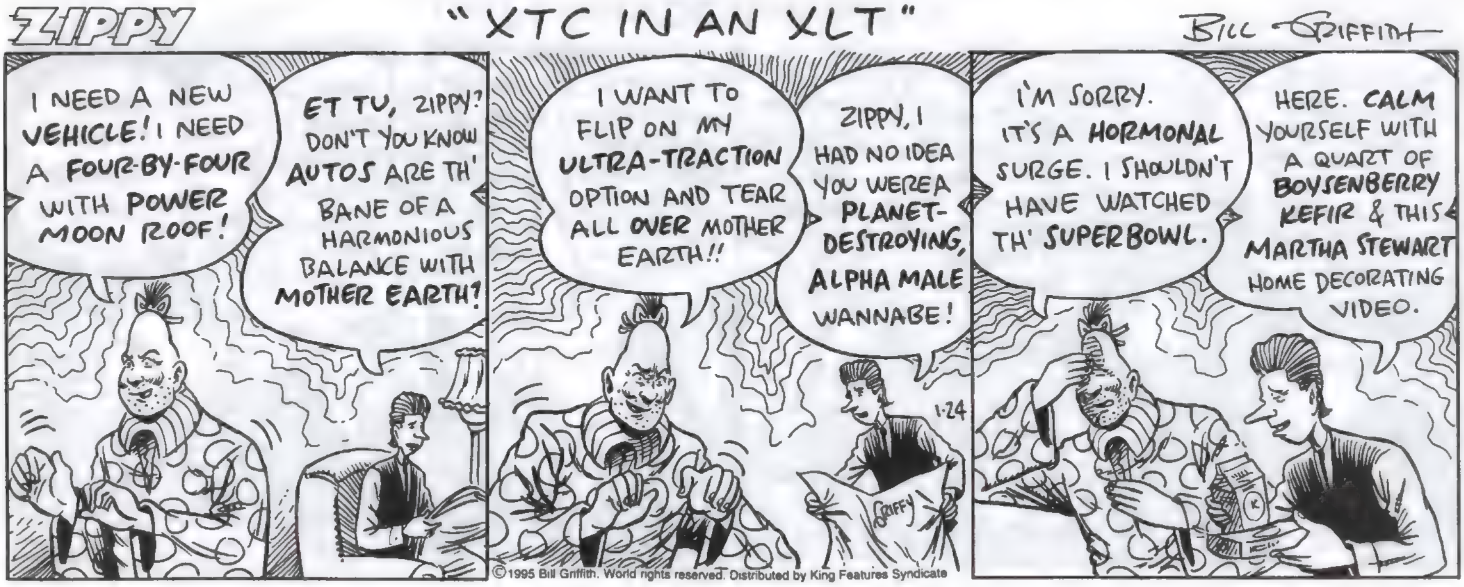
ZIPPY
"XTC IN AN XLT"
BILL GRIFFITH
I NEED A NEW VEHICLE! I NEED A FOUR-BY-FOUR WITH POWER MOON ROOF!
ET TU, ZIPPY? DON'T YOU KNOW AUTOS ARE TH' BANE OF A HARMONIOUS BALANCE WITH MOTHER EARTH?
I WANT TO FLIP ON MY ULTRA-TRACTION OPTION AND TEAR ALL OVER MOTHER EARTH!!
ZIPPY, I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE A PLANET-DESTROYING, ALPHA MALE WANNABE!
1-24
GRIFFY
I'M SORRY. IT'S A HORMONAL SURGE. I SHOULDN'T HAVE WATCHED TH' SUPERBOWL.
HERE. CALM YOURSELF WITH A QUART OF BOYSENBERRY KEFIR & THIS MARTHA STEWART HOME DECORATING VIDEO.

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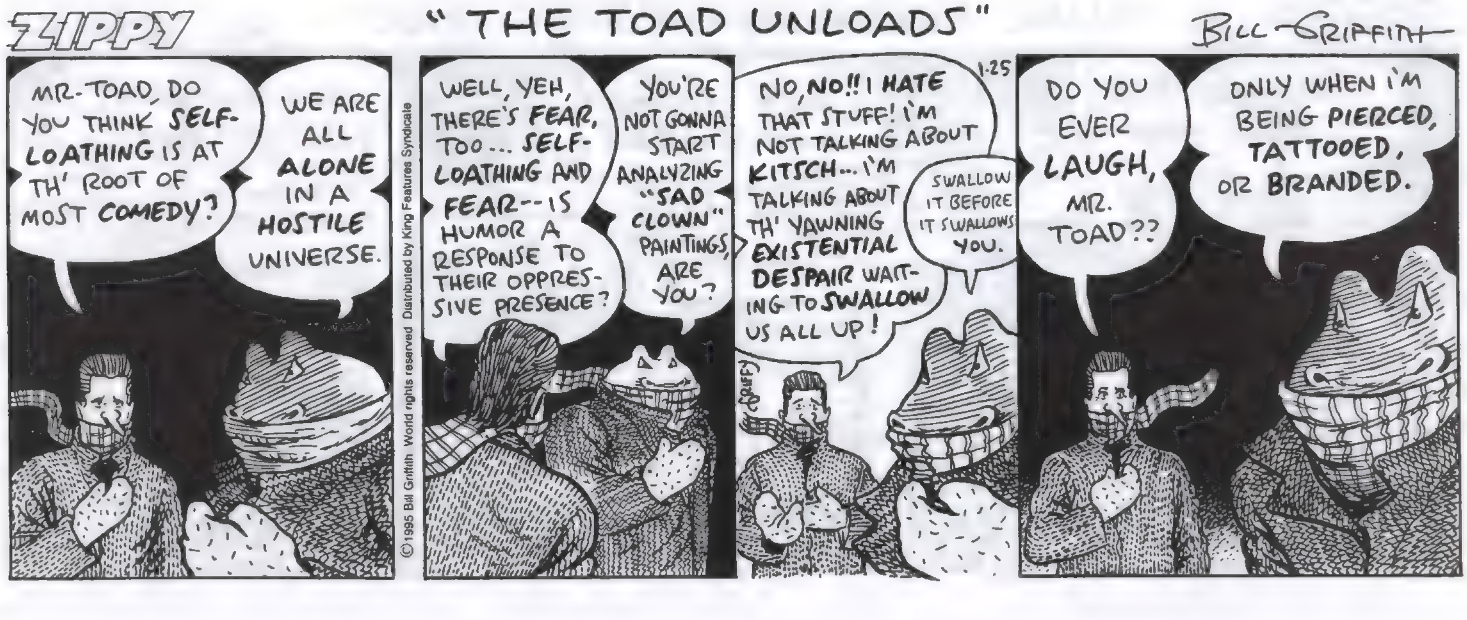
ZIPPY
" THE TOAD UNLOADS "
BILL GRIFFITH
MR. TOAD, DO YOU THINK SELF-LOATHING IS AT TH' ROOT OF MOST COMEDY?
WE ARE ALL ALONE IN A HOSTILE UNIVERSE.
WELL, YEH, THERE'S FEAR, TOO... SELF-LOATHING AND FEAR--IS HUMOR A RESPONSE TO THEIR OPPRESSIVE PRESENCE?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA START ANALYZING "SAD CLOWN" PAINTINGS, ARE YOU?
1-25
NO, NO!! I HATE THAT STUFF! I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT KITSCH... I'M TALKING ABOUT TH' YAWNING EXISTENTIAL DESPAIR WAITING TO SWALLOW US ALL UP!
SWALLOW IT BEFORE IT SWALLOWS YOU.
GRIFFY
DO YOU EVER LAUGH, MR. TOAD??
ONLY WHEN I'M BEING PIERCED, TATTOOED, OR BRANDED.

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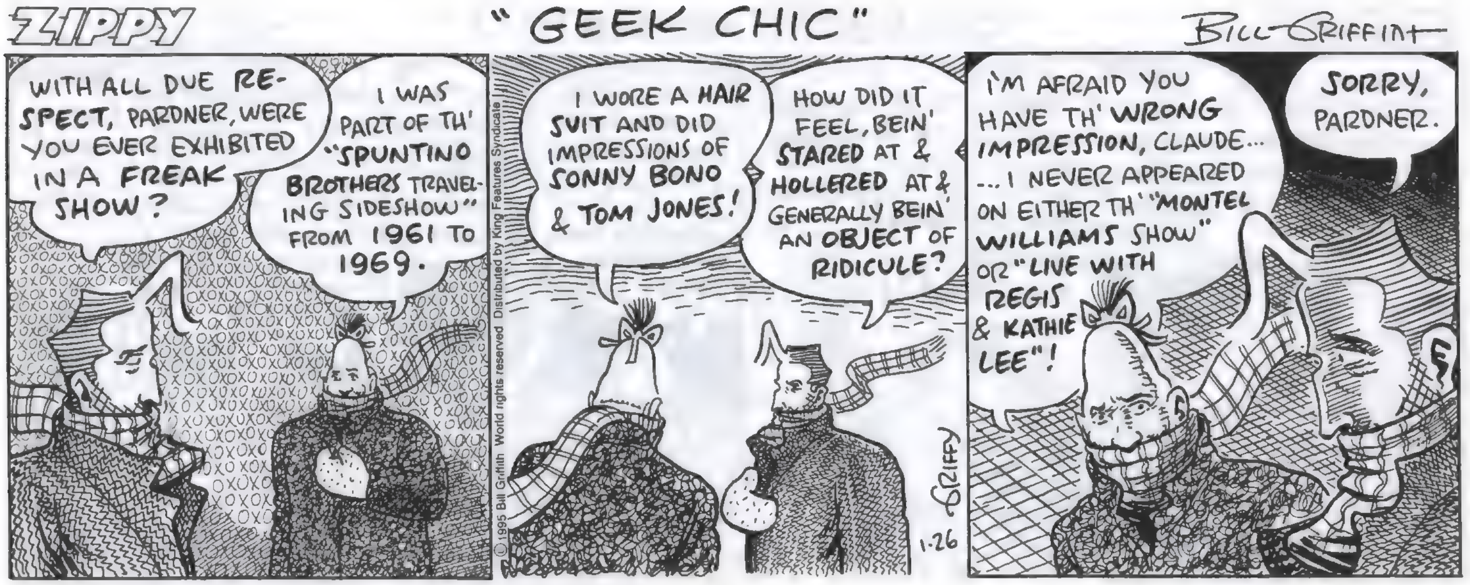
ZIPPY
"GEEK CHIC"
BILL GRIFFITH
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, PARDNER, WERE YOU EVER EXHIBITED IN A FREAK SHOW?
I WAS PART OF TH' "SPUNTINO BROTHERS TRAVELING SIDESHOW" FROM 1961 TO 1969.
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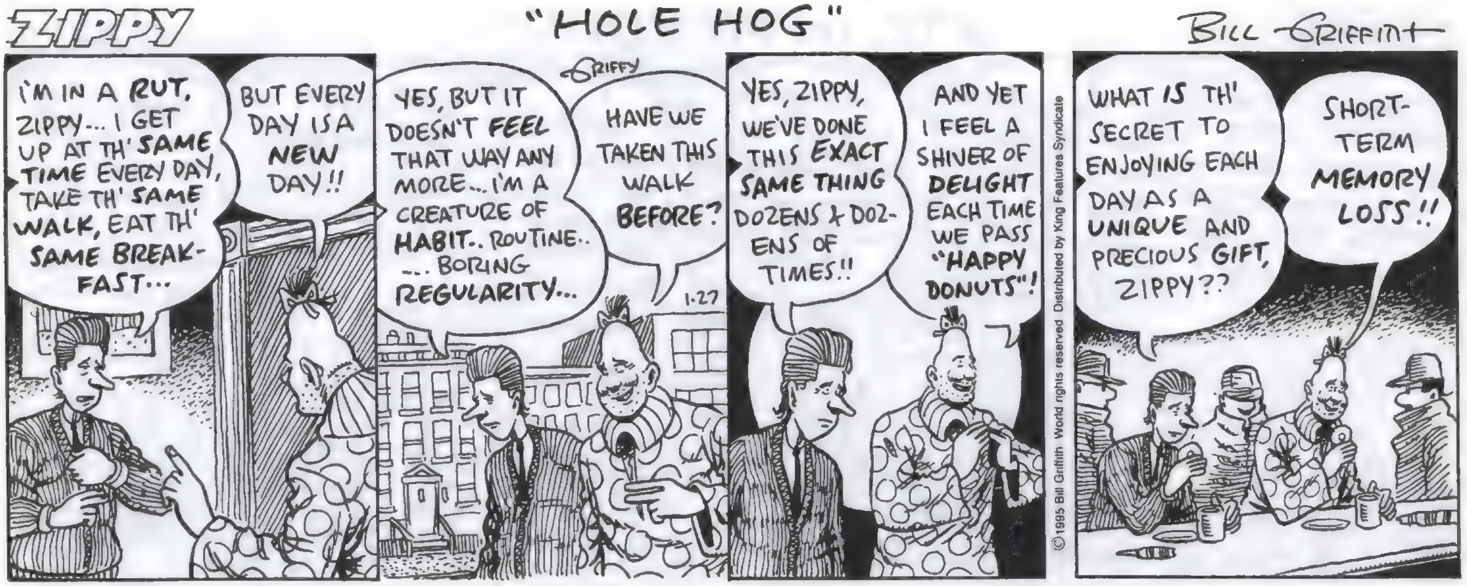
I WORE A HAIR SUIT AND DID IMPRESSIONS OF SONNY BONO & TOM JONES!
HOW DID IT FEEL, BEIN' STARED AT & HOLLERED AT & GENERALLY BEIN' AN OBJECT OF RIDICULE?
GRIFFY
1-26
I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE TH' WRONG IMPRESSION, CLAUDE... ...I NEVER APPEARED ON EITHER TH' "MONTEL WILLIAMS SHOW" OR "LIVE WITH REGIS & KATHIE LEE"!
SORRY, PARDNER.


ZIPPY
"HOLE HOG"
BILL GRIFFITH
I'M IN A RUT, ZIPPY... I GET UP AT TH' SAME TIME EVERY DAY, TAKE TH' SAME WALK, EAT TH' SAME BREAKFAST...
BUT EVERY DAY IS A NEW DAY!!
GRIFFY
YES, BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY ANY MORE... I'M A CREATURE OF HABIT.. ROUTINE.. ... BORING REGULARITY...
HAVE WE TAKEN THIS WALK BEFORE?
1-27
YES, ZIPPY, WE'VE DONE THIS EXACT SAME THING DOZENS & DOZENS OF TIMES!!
AND YET I FEEL A SHIVER OF DELIGHT EACH TIME WE PASS "HAPPY DONUTS"!
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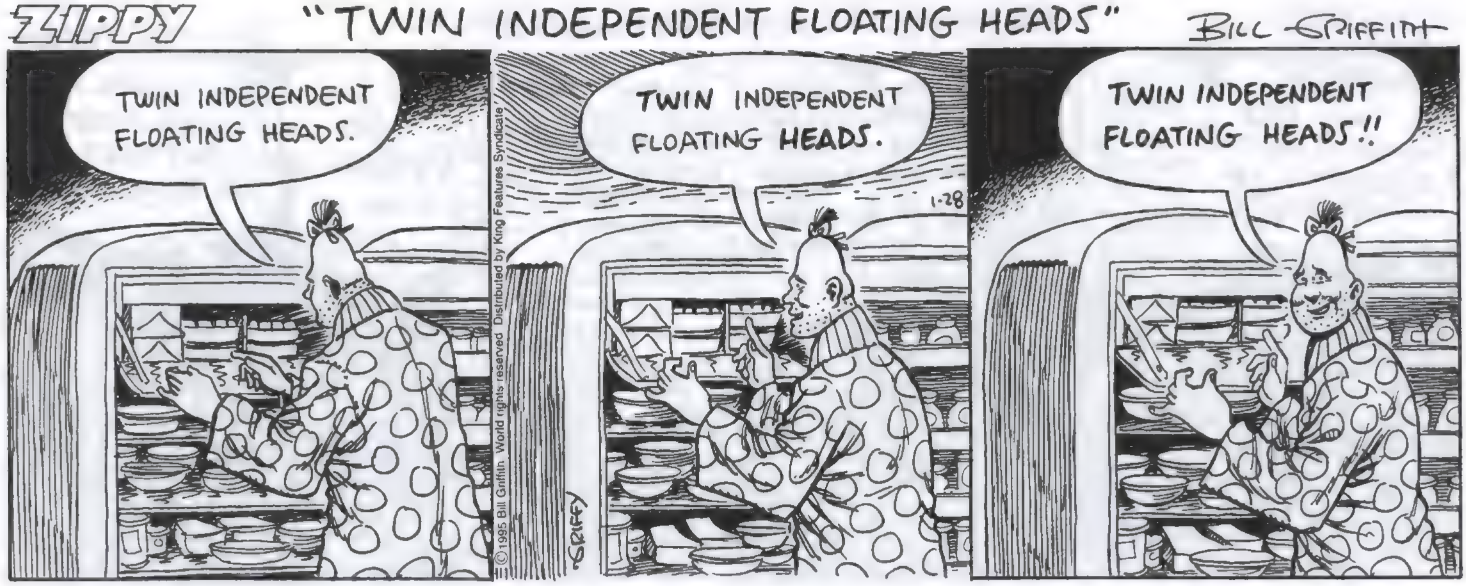
WHAT IS TH' SECRET TO ENJOYING EACH DAY AS A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS GIFT, ZIPPY??
SHORT-TERM MEMORY LOSS!!


ZIPPY
"TWIN INDEPENDENT FLOATING HEADS"
BILL GRIFFITH
TWIN INDEPENDENT FLOATING HEADS.
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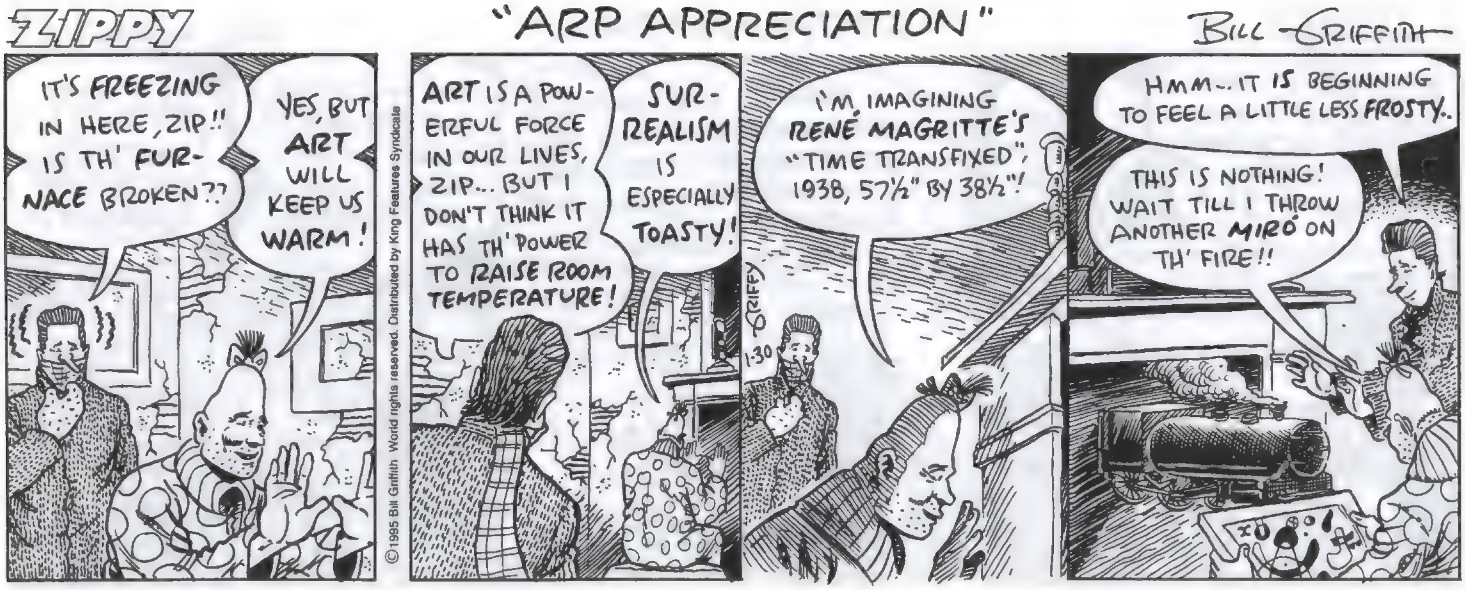
GRIFFY
TWIN INDEPENDENT FLOATING HEADS.
1-28
TWIN INDEPENDENT FLOATING HEADS!!


ZIPPY
"ARP APPRECIATION"
BILL GRIFFITH
IT'S FREEZING IN HERE, ZIP!! IS TH' FURNACE BROKEN??
YES, BUT ART WILL KEEP US WARM!
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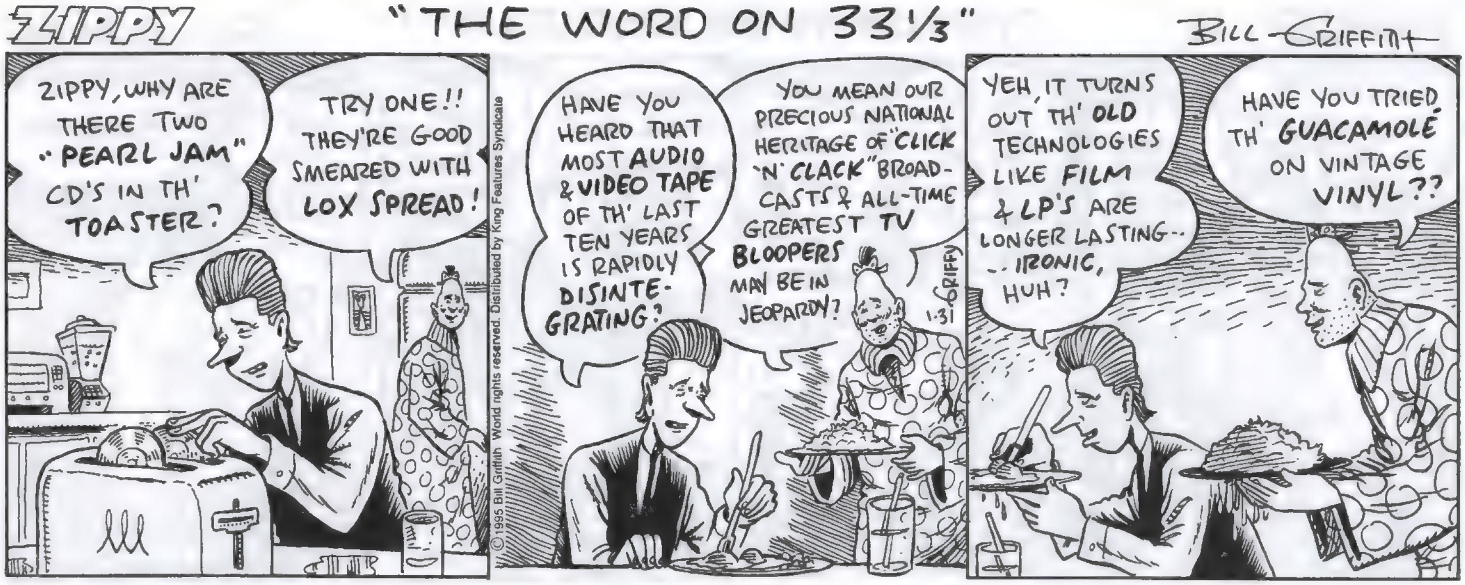
ART IS A POWERFUL FORCE IN OUR LIVES, ZIP... BUT I DON'T THINK IT HAS TH' POWER TO RAISE ROOM TEMPERATURE!
SURREALISM IS ESPECIALLY TOASTY!
GRIFFY 1-30
I'M IMAGINING RENÉ MAGRITTE'S "TIME TRANSFIXED", 1938, 57½" BY 38½"!
HMM.. IT IS BEGINNING TO FEEL A LITTLE LESS FROSTY..
THIS IS NOTHING! WAIT TILL I THROW ANOTHER MIRÓ ON TH' FIRE!!


ZIPPY
"THE WORD ON 33⅓"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY, WHY ARE THERE TWO "PEARL JAM" CD'S IN TH' TOASTER?
TRY ONE!! THEY'RE GOOD SMEARED WITH LOX SPREAD!
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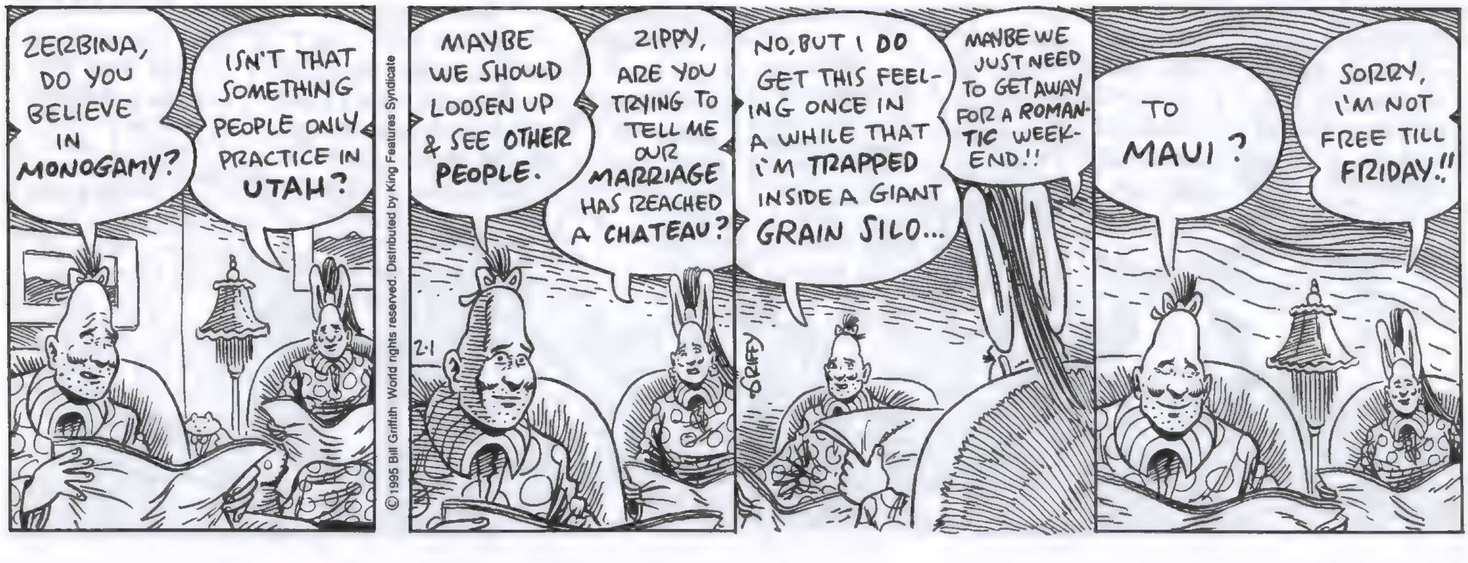
HAVE YOU HEARD THAT MOST AUDIO & VIDEO TAPE OF TH' LAST TEN YEARS IS RAPIDLY DISINTEGRATING?
YOU MEAN OUR PRECIOUS NATIONAL HERITAGE OF "CLICK 'N' CLACK" BROADCASTS & ALL-TIME GREATEST TV BLOOPERS MAY BE IN JEOPARDY?
GRIFFY 1-31
YEH, IT TURNS OUT TH' OLD TECHNOLOGIES LIKE FILM & LP'S ARE LONGER LASTING.. ..IRONIC, HUH?
HAVE YOU TRIED TH' GUACAMOLÉ ON VINTAGE VINYL??


ZIPPY
"TWO PINS IN A POD"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZERBINA, DO YOU BELIEVE IN MONOGAMY?
ISN'T THAT SOMETHING PEOPLE ONLY PRACTICE IN UTAH?
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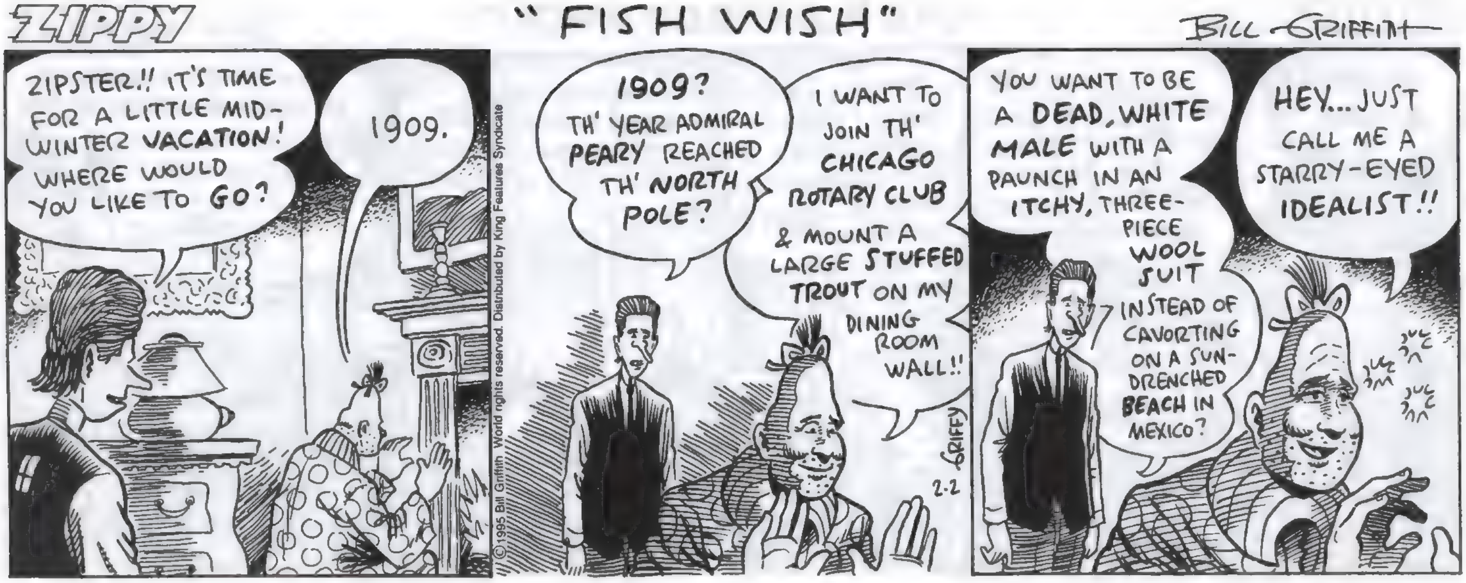
MAYBE WE SHOULD LOOSEN UP & SEE OTHER PEOPLE.
ZIPPY, ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME OUR MARRIAGE HAS REACHED A CHATEAU?
2-1
GRIFFY
NO, BUT I DO GET THIS FEELING ONCE IN A WHILE THAT I'M TRAPPED INSIDE A GIANT GRAIN SILO...
MAYBE WE JUST NEED TO GET AWAY FOR A ROMANTIC WEEKEND!!
TO MAUI?
SORRY, I'M NOT FREE TILL FRIDAY!!


ZIPPY
"FISH WISH"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPSTER!! IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE MID-WINTER VACATION! WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?
1909.
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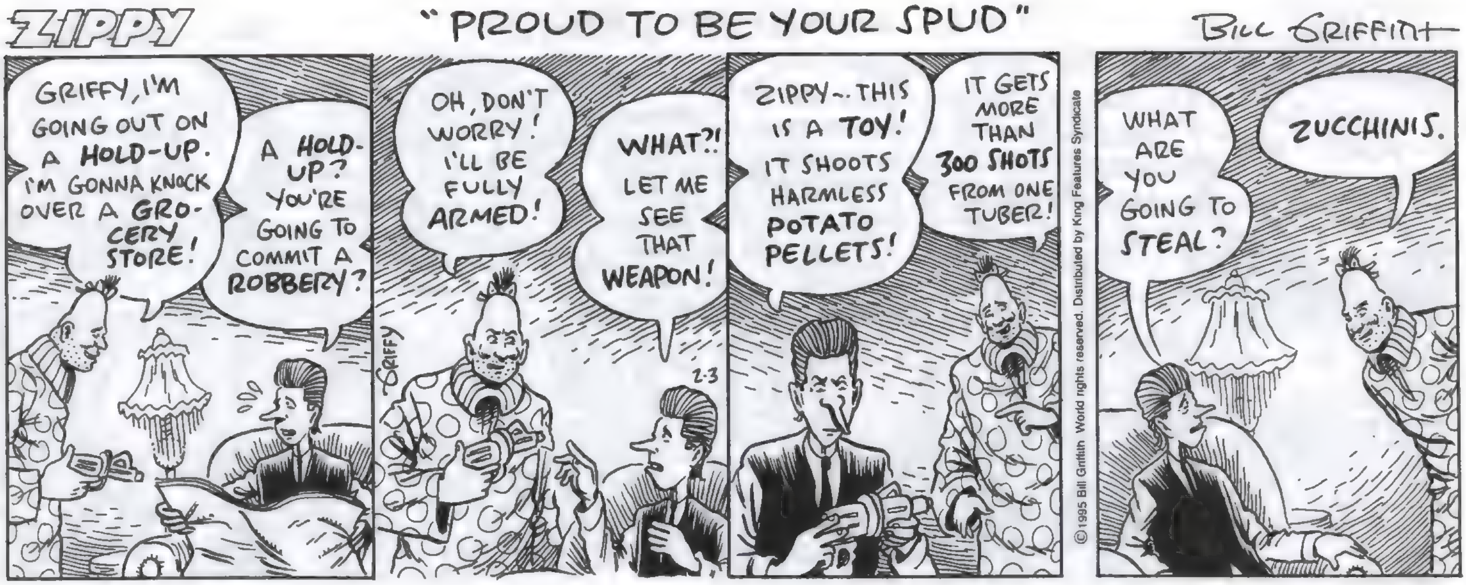
1909? TH' YEAR ADMIRAL PEARY REACHED TH' NORTH POLE?
I WANT TO JOIN TH' CHICAGO ROTARY CLUB & MOUNT A LARGE STUFFED TROUT ON MY DINING ROOM WALL!!
GRIFFY
2-2
YOU WANT TO BE A DEAD, WHITE MALE WITH A PAUNCH IN AN ITCHY, THREE-PIECE WOOL SUIT INSTEAD OF CAVORTING ON A SUN-DRENCHED BEACH IN MEXICO?
HEY... JUST CALL ME A STARRY-EYED IDEALIST!!


ZIPPY
"PROUD TO BE YOUR SPUD"
BILL GRIFFITH
GRIFFY, I'M GOING OUT ON A HOLD-UP. I'M GONNA KNOCK OVER A GRO-CERY STORE!
A HOLD-UP? YOU'RE GOING TO COMMIT A ROBBERY?
GRIFFY
OH, DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE FULLY ARMED!
WHAT?! LET ME SEE THAT WEAPON!
2-3
ZIPPY-- THIS IS A TOY! IT SHOOTS HARMLESS POTATO PELLETS!
IT GETS MORE THAN 300 SHOTS FROM ONE TUBER!
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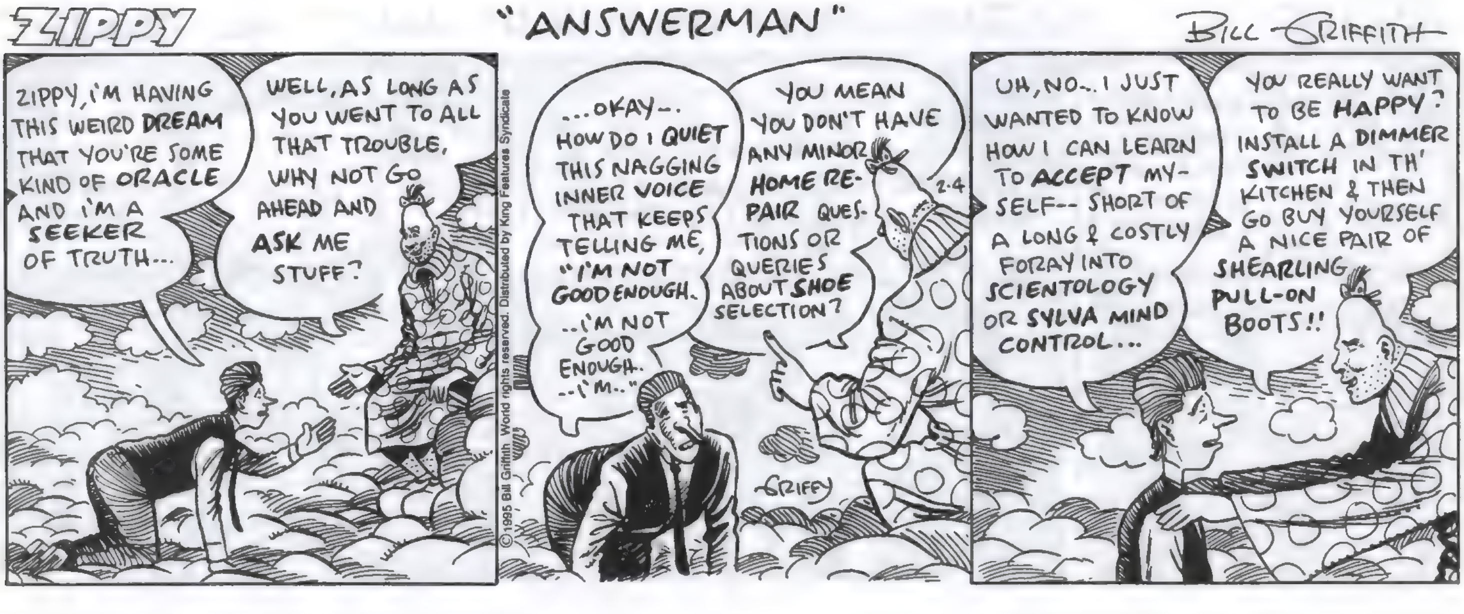
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO STEAL?
ZUCCHINIS.


ZIPPY
"ANSWERMAN"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY, I'M HAVING THIS WEIRD DREAM THAT YOU'RE SOME KIND OF ORACLE AND I'M A SEEKER OF TRUTH...
WELL, AS LONG AS YOU WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE, WHY NOT GO AHEAD AND ASK ME STUFF?
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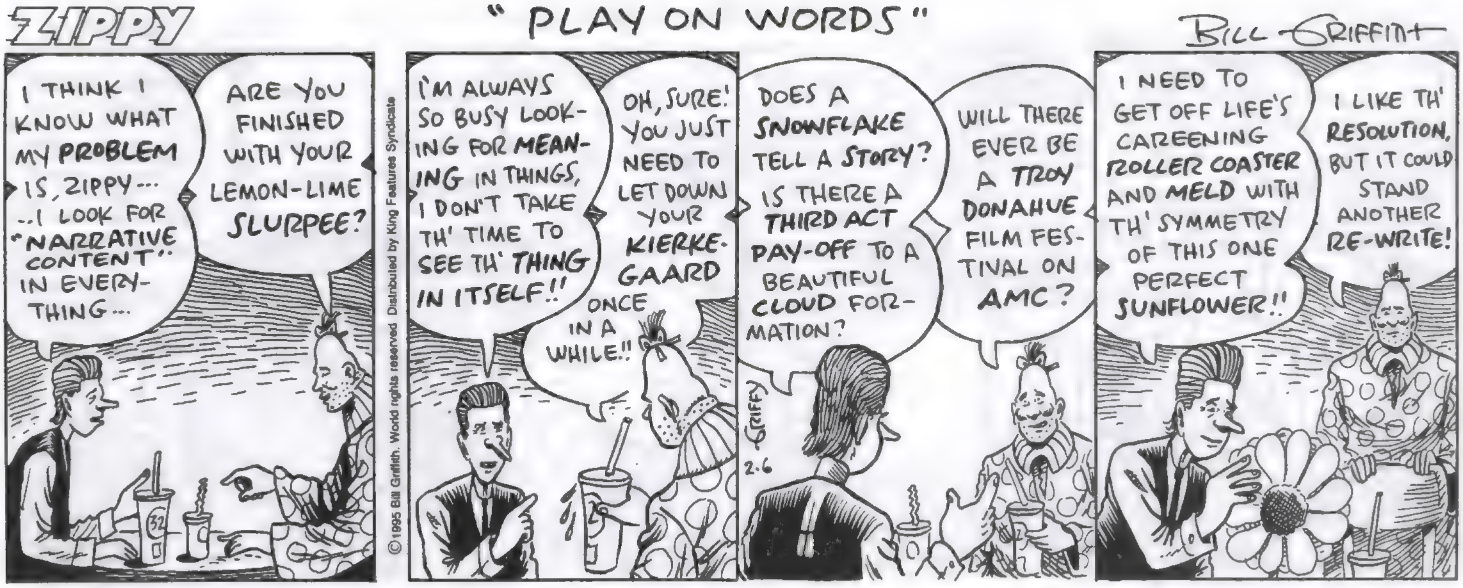
...OKAY-. HOW DO I QUIET THIS NAGGING INNER VOICE THAT KEEPS TELLING ME, "I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH.. ..I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH.. ..I'M.."
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MINOR HOME RE-PAIR QUES-TIONS OR QUERIES ABOUT SHOE SELECTION?
2-4
GRIFFY
UH, NO-. I JUST WANTED TO KNOW HOW I CAN LEARN TO ACCEPT MY-SELF-- SHORT OF A LONG & COSTLY FORAY INTO SCIENTOLOGY OR SYLVA MIND CONTROL...
YOU REALLY WANT TO BE HAPPY? INSTALL A DIMMER SWITCH IN TH' KITCHEN & THEN GO BUY YOURSELF A NICE PAIR OF SHEARLING PULL-ON BOOTS!!


ZIPPY
" PLAY ON WORDS "
BILL GRIFFITH
I THINK I KNOW WHAT MY PROBLEM IS, ZIPPY... ..I LOOK FOR "NARRATIVE CONTENT" IN EVERYTHING...
ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR LEMON-LIME SLURPEE?
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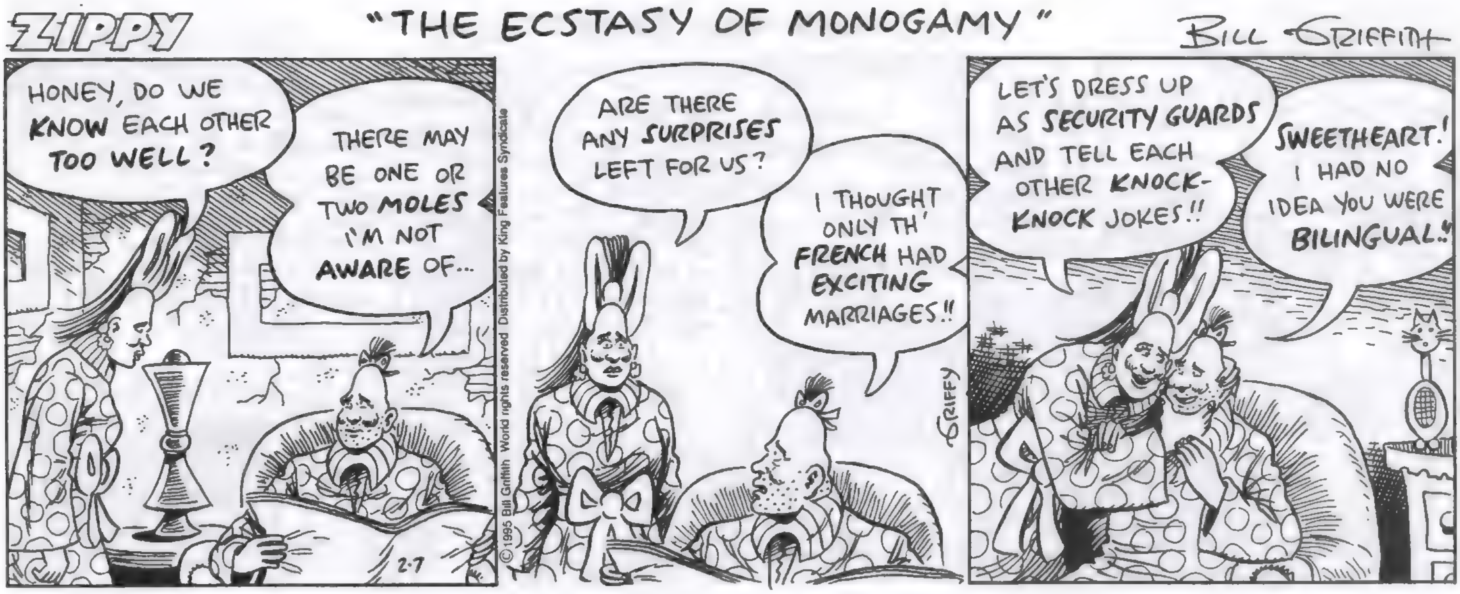
I'M ALWAYS SO BUSY LOOKING FOR MEANING IN THINGS, I DON'T TAKE TH' TIME TO SEE TH' THING IN ITSELF!!
OH, SURE! YOU JUST NEED TO LET DOWN YOUR KIERKEGAARD ONCE IN A WHILE!!
DOES A SNOWFLAKE TELL A STORY? IS THERE A THIRD ACT PAY-OFF TO A BEAUTIFUL CLOUD FORMATION?
WILL THERE EVER BE A TROY DONAHUE FILM FESTIVAL ON AMC?
GRIFFY
2·6
I NEED TO GET OFF LIFE'S CAREENING ROLLER COASTER AND MELD WITH TH' SYMMETRY OF THIS ONE PERFECT SUNFLOWER!!
I LIKE TH' RESOLUTION, BUT IT COULD STAND ANOTHER RE-WRITE!


ZIPPY
"THE ECSTASY OF MONOGAMY"
BILL GRIFFITH
HONEY, DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER TOO WELL?
THERE MAY BE ONE OR TWO MOLES I'M NOT AWARE OF...
2·7
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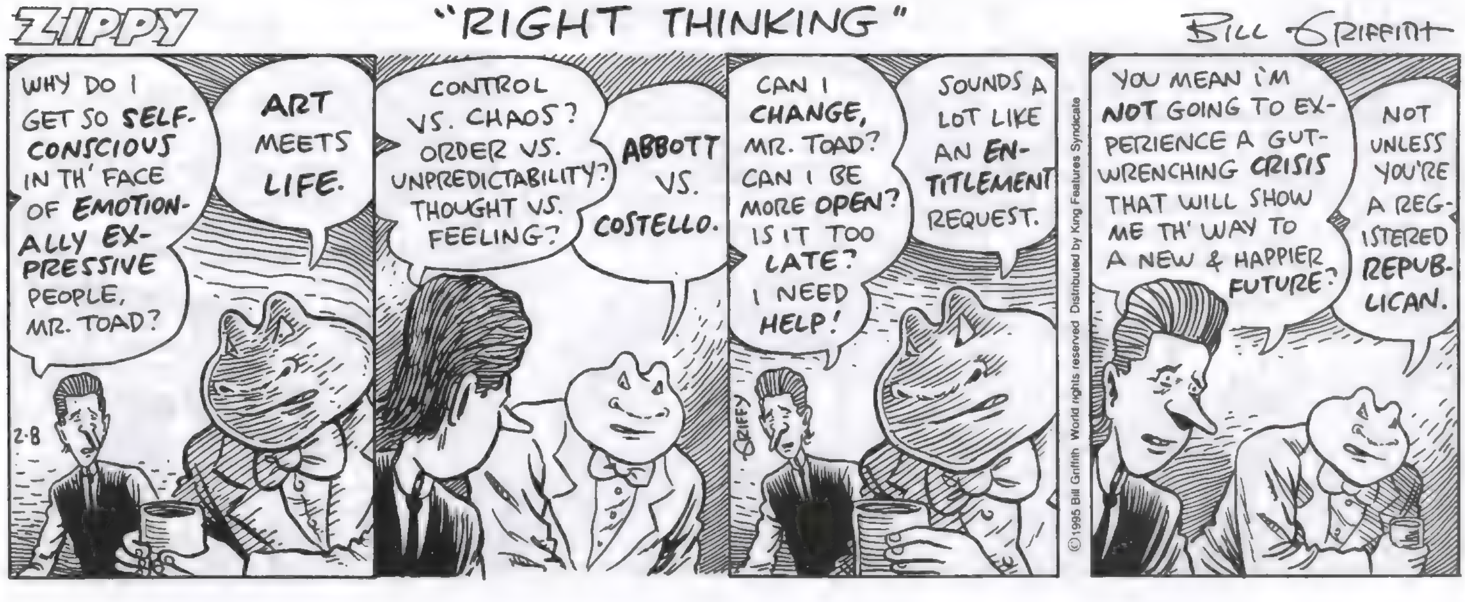
ARE THERE ANY SURPRISES LEFT FOR US?
I THOUGHT ONLY TH' FRENCH HAD EXCITING MARRIAGES!!
GRIFFY
LET'S DRESS UP AS SECURITY GUARDS AND TELL EACH OTHER KNOCK-KNOCK JOKES!!
SWEETHEART! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE BILINGUAL!!


ZIPPY
"RIGHT THINKING"
BILL GRIFFITH
WHY DO I GET SO SELF-CONSCIOUS IN TH' FACE OF EMOTIONALLY EXPRESSIVE PEOPLE, MR. TOAD?
ART MEETS LIFE.
2·8
CONTROL VS. CHAOS? ORDER VS. UNPREDICTABILITY? THOUGHT VS. FEELING?
ABBOTT VS. COSTELLO.
CAN I CHANGE, MR. TOAD? CAN I BE MORE OPEN? IS IT TOO LATE? I NEED HELP!
SOUNDS A LOT LIKE AN ENTITLEMENT REQUEST.
GRIFFY
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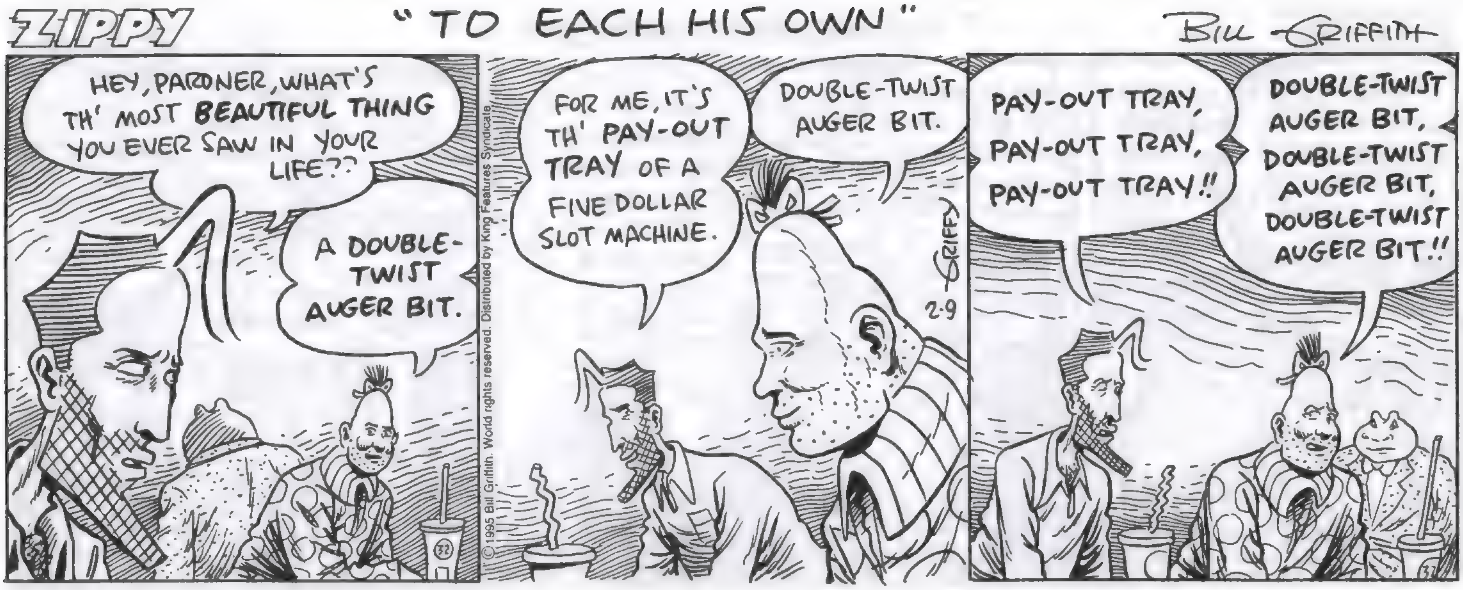
YOU MEAN I'M NOT GOING TO EXPERIENCE A GUT-WRENCHING CRISIS THAT WILL SHOW ME TH' WAY TO A NEW & HAPPIER FUTURE?
NOT UNLESS YOU'RE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN.


ZIPPY
"TO EACH HIS OWN"
BILL GRIFFITH
HEY, PARDNER, WHAT'S TH' MOST BEAUTIFUL THING YOU EVER SAW IN YOUR LIFE??
A DOUBLE-TWIST AUGER BIT.
FOR ME, IT'S TH' PAY-OUT TRAY OF A FIVE DOLLAR SLOT MACHINE.
DOUBLE-TWIST AUGER BIT.
GRIFFY
2·9
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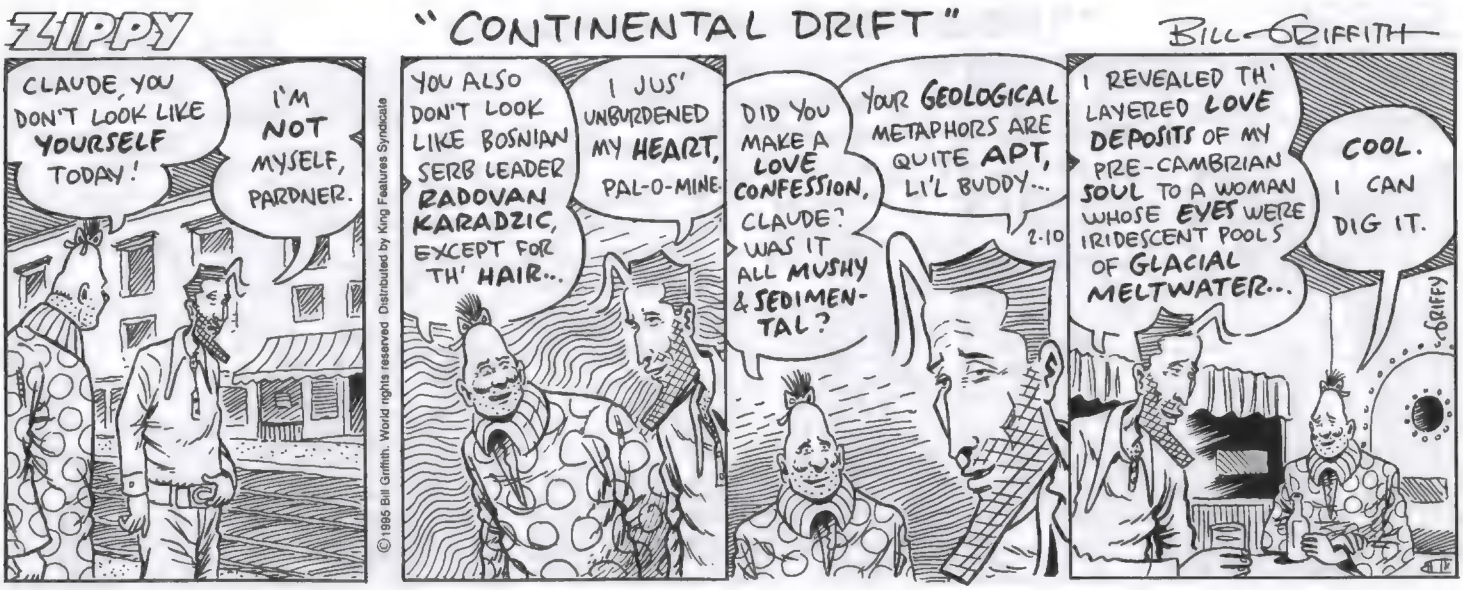
PAY-OUT TRAY, PAY-OUT TRAY, PAY-OUT TRAY!!
DOUBLE-TWIST AUGER BIT, DOUBLE-TWIST AUGER BIT, DOUBLE-TWIST AUGER BIT!!


ZIPPY
"CONTINENTAL DRIFT"
BILL GRIFFITH
CLAUDE, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOURSELF TODAY!
I'M NOT MYSELF, PARDNER.
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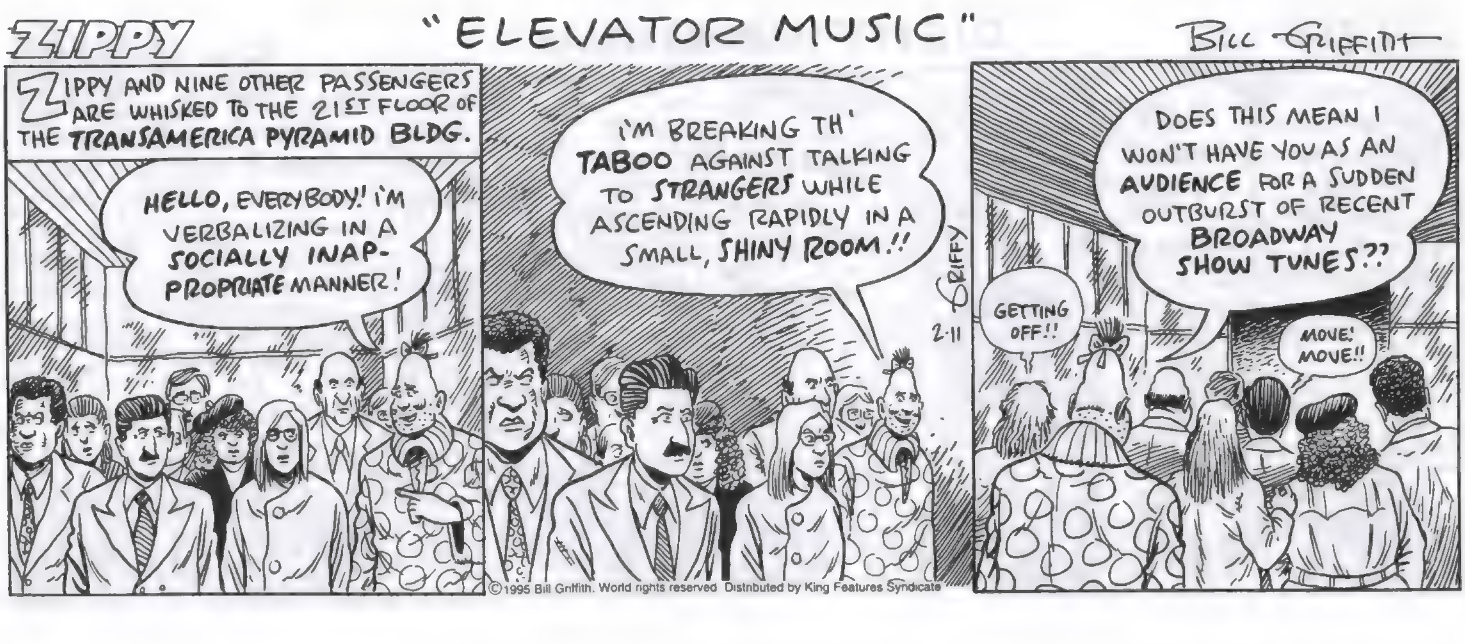
YOU ALSO DON'T LOOK LIKE BOSNIAN SERB LEADER RADOVAN KARADZIC, EXCEPT FOR TH' HAIR...
I JUS' UNBURDENED MY HEART, PAL-O-MINE.
DID YOU MAKE A LOVE CONFESSION, CLAUDE? WAS IT ALL MUSHY & SEDIMENTAL?
YOUR GEOLOGICAL METAPHORS ARE QUITE APT, LI'L BUDDY...
2·10
I REVEALED TH' LAYERED LOVE DEPOSITS OF MY PRE-CAMBRIAN SOUL TO A WOMAN WHOSE EYES WERE IRIDESCENT POOLS OF GLACIAL MELTWATER...
COOL. I CAN DIG IT.
GRIFFY


ZIPPY
"ELEVATOR MUSIC"
BILL GRIFFITH
ZIPPY AND NINE OTHER PASSENGERS ARE WHISKED TO THE 21ST FLOOR OF THE TRANSAMERICA PYRAMID BLDG.
HELLO, EVERYBODY! I'M VERBALIZING IN A SOCIALLY INAPPROPRIATE MANNER!
I'M BREAKING TH' TABOO AGAINST TALKING TO STRANGERS WHILE ASCENDING RAPIDLY IN A SMALL, SHINY ROOM!!
GRIFFY
2·11
GETTING OFF!!
DOES THIS MEAN I WON'T HAVE YOU AS AN AUDIENCE FOR A SUDDEN OUTBURST OF RECENT BROADWAY SHOW TUNES??
MOVE! MOVE!!
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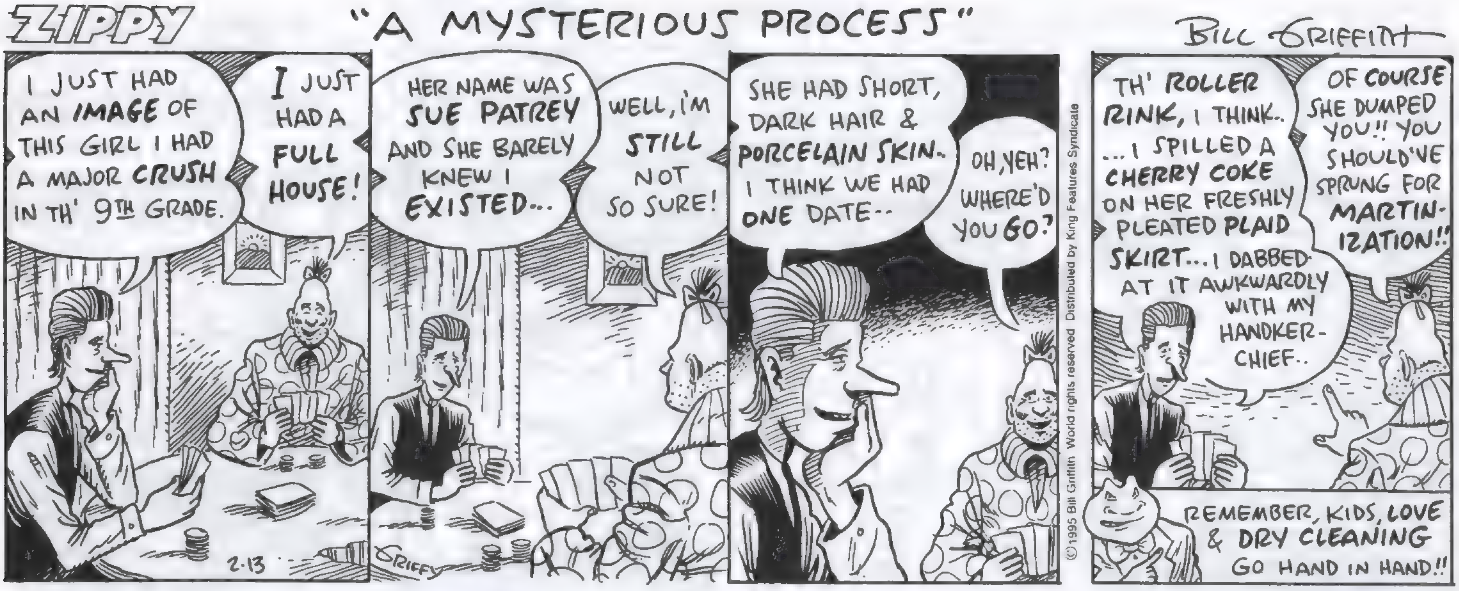
ZIPPY
"A MYSTERIOUS PROCESS"
BILL GRIFFITH
I JUST HAD AN IMAGE OF THIS GIRL I HAD A MAJOR CRUSH IN TH' 9TH GRADE.
I JUST HAD A FULL HOUSE!
2·13
HER NAME WAS SUE PATREY AND SHE BARELY KNEW I EXISTED...
WELL, I'M STILL NOT SO SURE!
GRIFFY
SHE HAD SHORT, DARK HAIR & PORCELAIN SKIN.. I THINK WE HAD ONE DATE--
OH, YEH? WHERE'D YOU GO?
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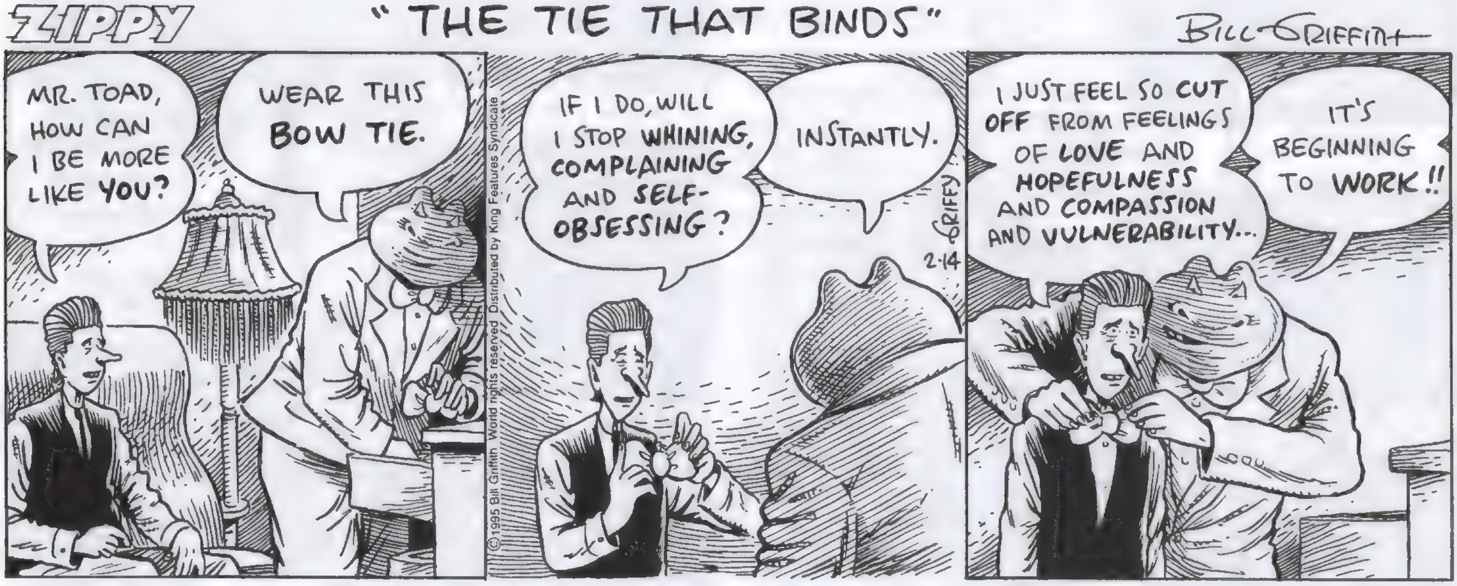
TH' ROLLER RINK, I THINK.. ...I SPILLED A CHERRY COKE ON HER FRESHLY PLEATED PLAID SKIRT... I DABBED AT IT AWKWARDLY WITH MY HANDKER-CHIEF..
OF COURSE SHE DUMPED YOU!! YOU SHOULD'VE SPRUNG FOR MARTIN-IZATION!!
REMEMBER, KIDS, LOVE & DRY CLEANING GO HAND IN HAND!!


ZIPPY
"THE TIE THAT BINDS"
BILL GRIFFITH
MR. TOAD, HOW CAN I BE MORE LIKE YOU?
WEAR THIS BOW TIE.
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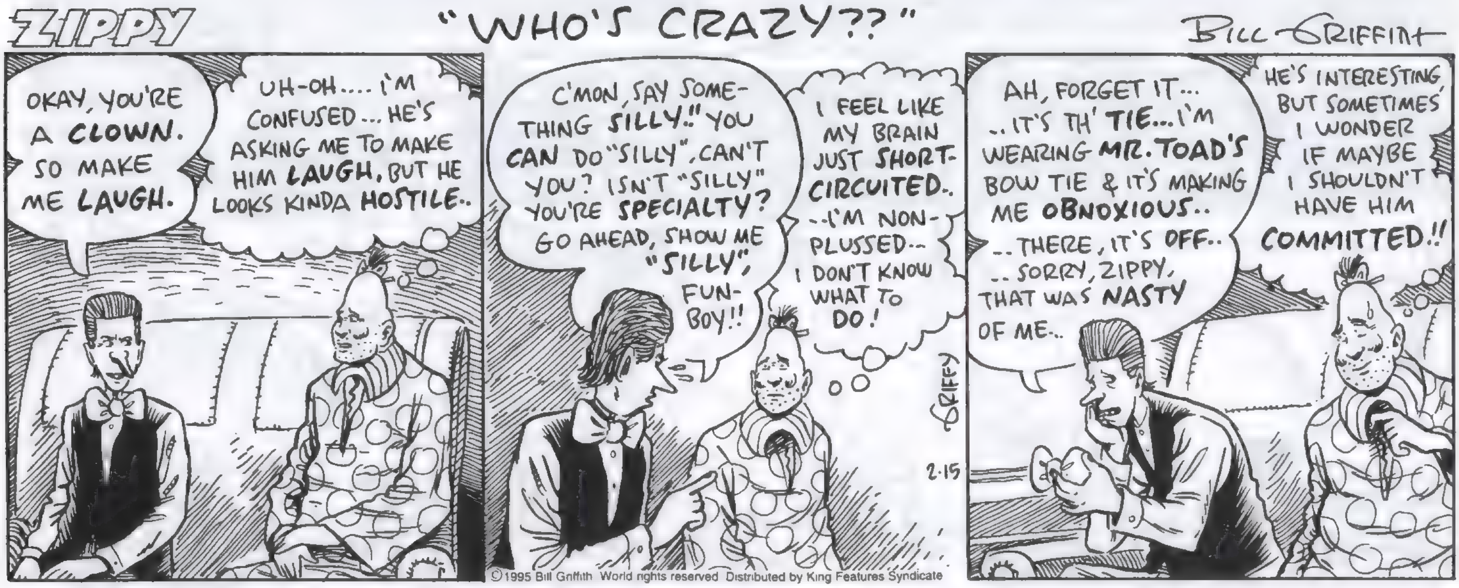
IF I DO, WILL I STOP WHINING, COMPLAINING AND SELF-OBSESSING?
INSTANTLY.
GRIFFY
2·14
I JUST FEEL SO CUT OFF FROM FEELINGS OF LOVE AND HOPEFULNESS AND COMPASSION AND VULNERABILITY...
IT'S BEGINNING TO WORK!!


ZIPPY
"WHO'S CRAZY??"
BILL GRIFFITH
OKAY, YOU'RE A CLOWN. SO MAKE ME LAUGH.
UH-OH.... I'M CONFUSED... HE'S ASKING ME TO MAKE HIM LAUGH, BUT HE LOOKS KINDA HOSTILE..
C'MON, SAY SOME-THING SILLY!" YOU CAN DO "SILLY", CAN'T YOU? ISN'T "SILLY" YOU'RE SPECIALTY? GO AHEAD, SHOW ME "SILLY", FUN-BOY!!
I FEEL LIKE MY BRAIN JUST SHORT-CIRCUITED.. --I'M NON-PLUSSED-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
GRIFFY
2·15
AH, FORGET IT... ..IT'S TH' TIE... I'M WEARING MR. TOAD'S BOW TIE & IT'S MAKING ME OBNOXIOUS.. --THERE, IT'S OFF.. ..SORRY, ZIPPY, THAT WAS NASTY OF ME..
HE'S INTERESTING, BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER IF MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE HIM COMMITTED!!
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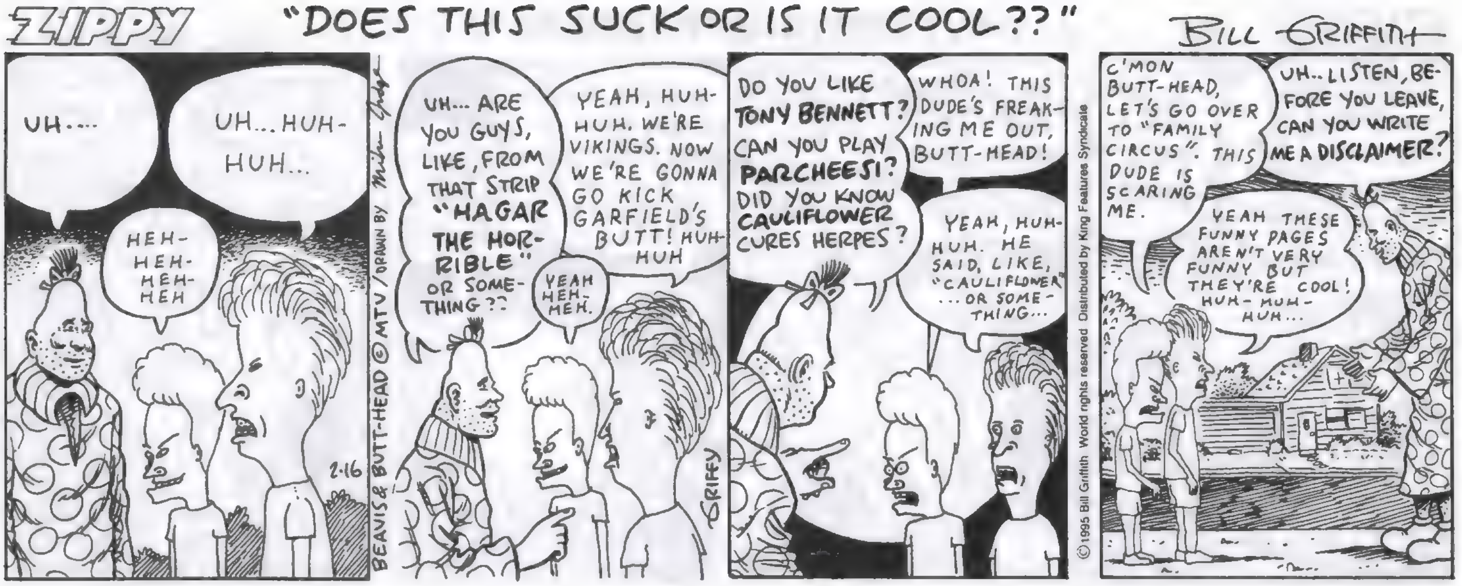
ZIPPY
"DOES THIS SUCK OR IS IT COOL??"
BILL GRIFFITH
UH....
UH... HUH-HUH...
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH
2-16
BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD © MTV / DRAWN BY Mike Judge
UH... ARE YOU GUYS, LIKE, FROM THAT STRIP "HAGAR THE HORRIBLE" OR SOMETHING??
YEAH, HUH-HUH. WE'RE VIKINGS. NOW WE'RE GONNA GO KICK GARFIELD'S BUTT! HUH-HUH
YEAH HEH-HEH.
GRIFFY
DO YOU LIKE TONY BENNETT? CAN YOU PLAY PARCHEESI? DID YOU KNOW CAULIFLOWER CURES HERPES?
WHOA! THIS DUDE'S FREAKING ME OUT, BUTT-HEAD!
YEAH, HUH-HUH. HE SAID, LIKE, "CAULIFLOWER"... OR SOMETHING...
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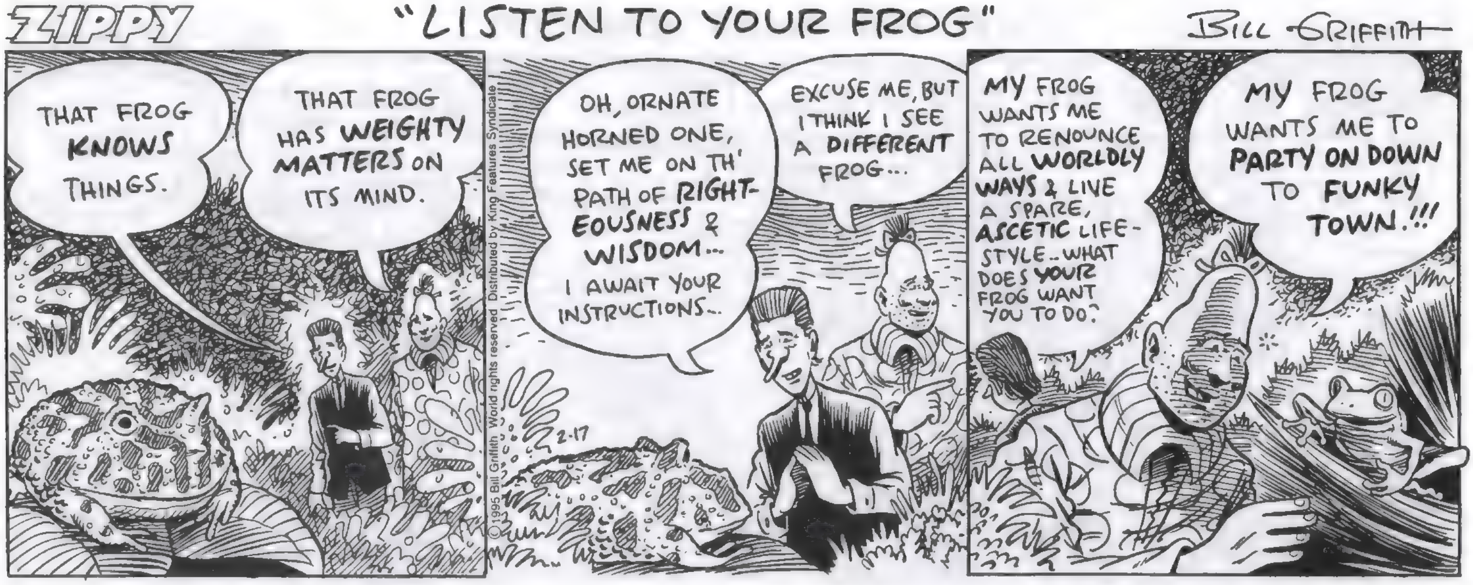
C'MON BUTT-HEAD, LET'S GO OVER TO "FAMILY CIRCUS". THIS DUDE IS SCARING ME.
UH.. LISTEN, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, CAN YOU WRITE ME A DISCLAIMER?
YEAH THESE FUNNY PAGES AREN'T VERY FUNNY BUT THEY'RE COOL! HUH-HUH-HUH...


ZIPPY
"LISTEN TO YOUR FROG"
BILL GRIFFITH
THAT FROG KNOWS THINGS.
THAT FROG HAS WEIGHTY MATTERS ON ITS MIND.
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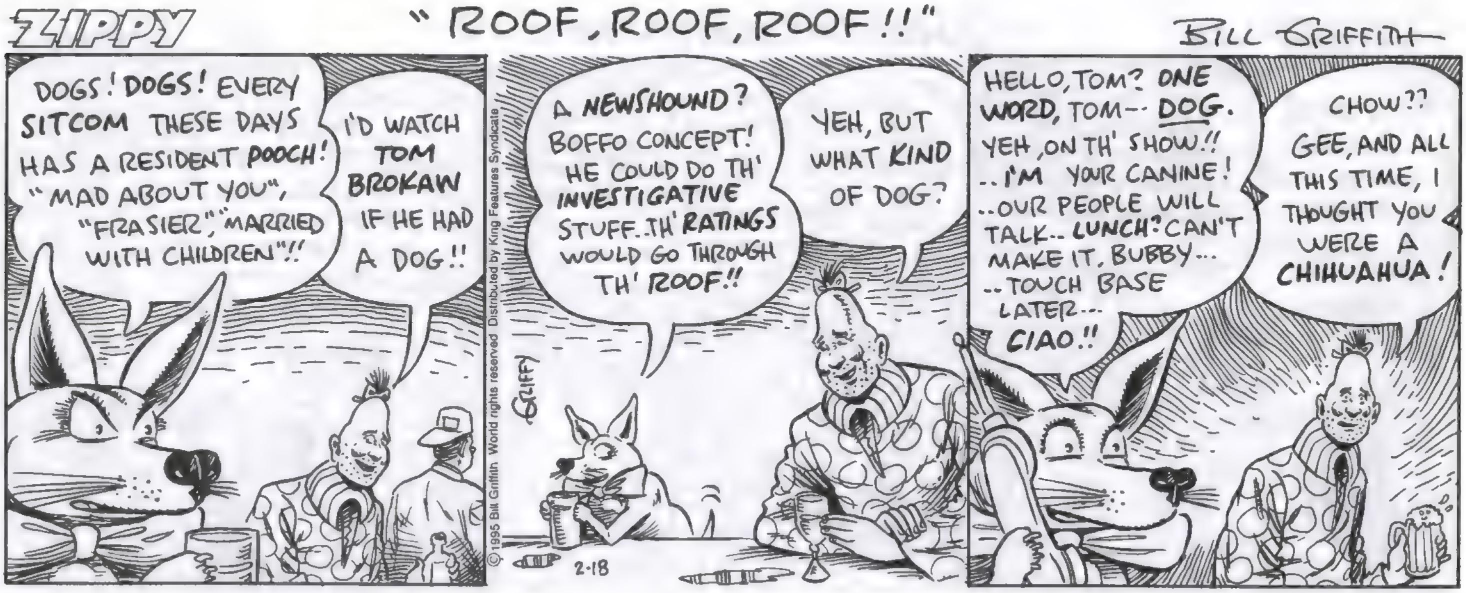
2-17
OH, ORNATE HORNED ONE, SET ME ON TH' PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS & WISDOM... I AWAIT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I THINK I SEE A DIFFERENT FROG...
MY FROG WANTS ME TO RENOUNCE ALL WORLDLY WAYS & LIVE A SPARE, ASCETIC LIFESTYLE.. WHAT DOES YOUR FROG WANT YOU TO DO?
MY FROG WANTS ME TO PARTY ON DOWN TO FUNKY TOWN.!!!


ZIPPY
"ROOF, ROOF, ROOF!!"
BILL GRIFFITH
DOGS! DOGS! EVERY SITCOM THESE DAYS HAS A RESIDENT POOCH! "MAD ABOUT YOU", "FRASIER", "MARRIED WITH CHILDREN"!!
I'D WATCH TOM BROKAW IF HE HAD A DOG!!
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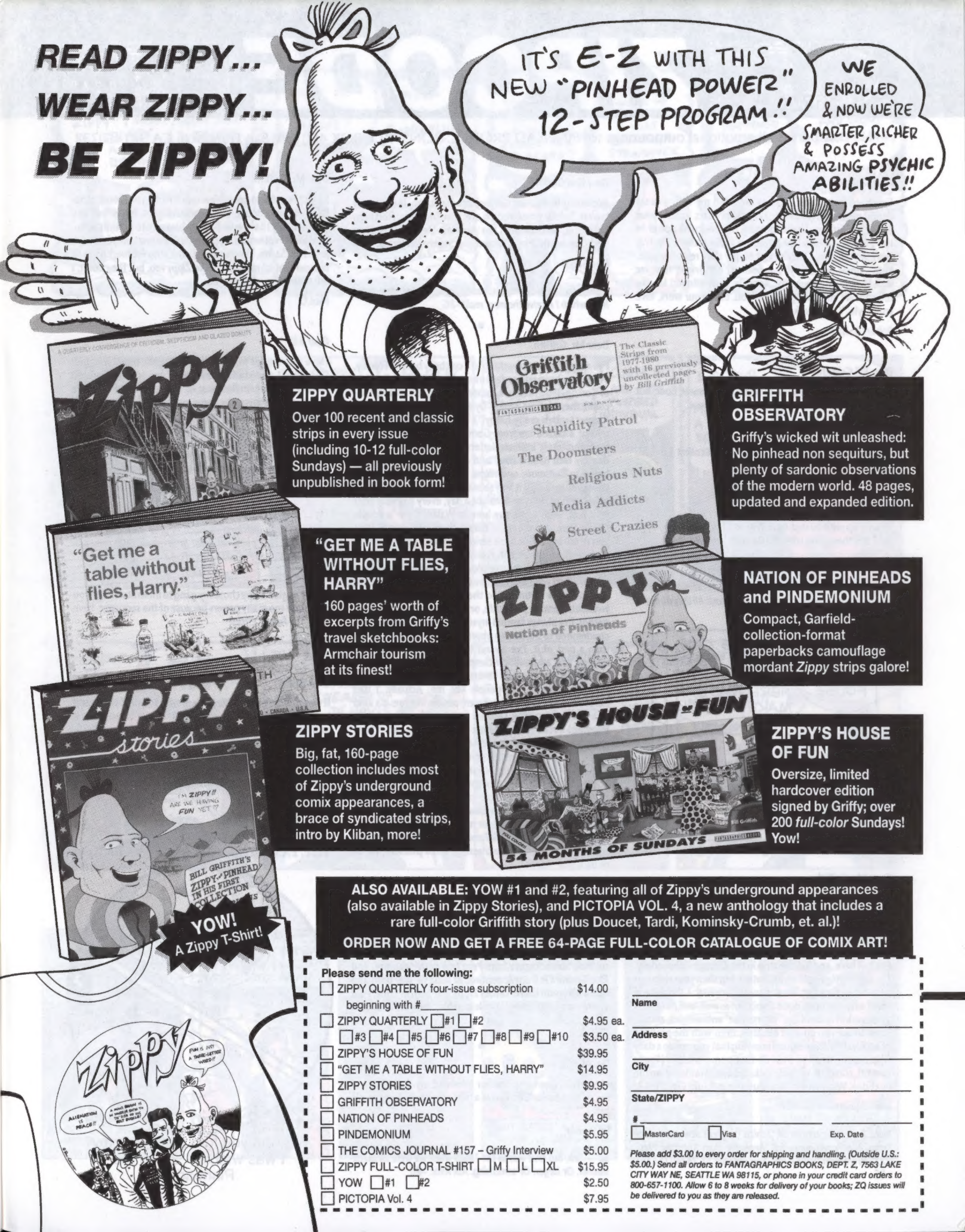
GRIFFY
2-18
A NEWSHOUND? BOFFO CONCEPT! HE COULD DO TH' INVESTIGATIVE STUFF.. TH' RATINGS WOULD GO THROUGH TH' ROOF!!
YEH, BUT WHAT KIND OF DOG?
HELLO, TOM? ONE WORD, TOM-- DOG. YEH, ON TH' SHOW!! ..I'M YOUR CANINE! ..OUR PEOPLE WILL TALK.. LUNCH? CAN'T MAKE IT, BUBBY... --TOUCH BASE LATER... CIAO.!!
CHOW?? GEE, AND ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A CHIHUAHUA!


IT'S E-Z WITH THIS NEW "PINHEAD POWER" 12-STEP PROGRAM!!
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The Doomsters
Religious Nuts
Media Addicts
Street Crazies
"Get me a table without flies, Harry."
ZIPPY
Nation of Pinheads
ZIPPY stories
I'M ZIPPY!! ARE WE HAVING FUN YET?!
BILL GRIFFITH'S ZIPPY the PINHEAD IN HIS FIRST COLLECTION
ZIPPY'S HOUSE of FUN
54 MONTHS OF SUNDAYS
FULL COLOR
Bill Griffith
FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS
YOW! A Zippy T-Shirt!
Zippy
FUN IS JUST A THREE-LETTER WORD!!
A MAN'S BRAIN IS IN INVERSE RATIO TO TH' SIZE OF HIS BELT BUCKLE!
ALIENATION IS PEACE!!

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WEAR ZIPPY...
BE ZIPPY!

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ZIPCODE

Address all emotional outpourings to: PINHEAD PRODUCTIONS, P.O. BOX 460154, San Francisco, CA 94146.

Dear Griffy-san,

Greetings from Japan. *ZQ* has provided me with a great deal of pleasure over the past couple of years, as have your earlier collections. Upon spotting the enclosed poster in the subway stations (for a Nagoya radio station, Zip-FM, with the tag line, "They're not hippy, they're not yuppie. These times are Zippy!") it seemed only right that we should send one your way. Actually, my girlfriend Mariko took a knife and snagged it for you. Love your work, love your style. Ya big lunk.

Robert B. Rama

•

Dear Bill Griffith,

You go to the other room, in front, on the same floor, but you warn that you're gonna rinse your sleeve.

Thomas Valere (Paris)

Tom — I rinsed, but I forgot to Bounce. Do I collect $200.00? –BG

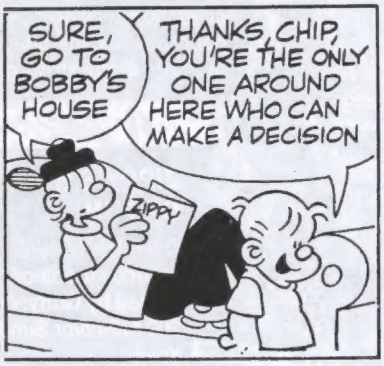
•

Dear Bill,

What's up with *Hi and Lois*? Why is Chip such a big *Zippy* fan? Are they good friends? Do they trade recipes?

Memo Salazar

Memo — Zip 'n' Chip's relationship is entirely platonic and low-key. In fact, it's subdued, almost non-existent. All they do is, yes, trade salsa recipes, and dip. –BG


SURE, GO TO BOBBY'S HOUSE
THANKS, CHIP, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE AROUND HERE WHO CAN MAKE A DECISION
ZIPPY

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•

Dear Mr. Griffith,

I have been a huge fan of your work ever since I saw the first *Zippy* strip that made me laugh out loud. You see, I live in Chicago, and as you may know, we unfortunate souls see *Zippy* only three or four times a month in the *Chicago Reader*. You should really get the King Features "suits" on the ball here, and get the strip in the *Chicago Tribune* daily. I'm sure most people would hate it, but then your strip was never designed for "most people" anyway. I should add that I am an underground comix fan as well, and have seen your work in some of the "alternative" anthologies, and it's great to see you do stuff like that, even with the pressure of a daily strip. It feels good knowing that you can do a daily strip on one day and then do that porno analysis (*Young Lust #8*), complete with big dicks spoojing wantonly, on the next day. What would that plumber in Rapid City think?

Ivan Brunetti

Note: Ivan is the creator of "Schizo", a great new comic book series. Highly recommended. Available from Antarctic Press, 7272 Wurzbach, Suite #204, San Antonio TX 78240 ($3.50). –BG

Dear Ken Griffith,

According to *Business Geographics* magazine, the areas of lowest *Twinkie* consumption are: San Francisco/Northern California, Metropolitan Los Angeles, Metropolitan New York/Connecticut and Boston and Southern Florida.

Don Segal

Don — Jeez, what does this mean? Those are the same areas from which I receive the most mail! –BG

•

Dear Mr. Griffith,

I've never thought of writing to a celebrity before. Frankly, I've always been astounded to hear things like Jerry Seinfeld or Tori Spelling receive a hundred fan letters a day. What could these letters say? ("Dylan is *sooo* cute," or "that Kramer — he's really funny!"). The director John Waters tells of a crazed fan from Germany who wrote long and inappropriately intimate letters along the lines of "your deathly face haunts me," and actually showed up at his house in Baltimore one night. Whatever, I just want to thank you for *Zippy*. It may sound sort of corny, but a couple of seconds of levity and insight a day, every day year after year and, well, as we say here in Washington "a couple billion here and a couple billion there and pretty soon you're talking about some serious money." I can't think of a piece of consumer entertainment that has insulted me less or brought me greater pleasure in the past ten years. I'll leave it to you to determine whether that is a tribute to your talent, a testimony to the paucity of quality in late twentieth century public life, or a commentary on my own pathos. I've always fancied myself, or, more accurately, felt condemned to be, just an observer of the zeitgeist rather than a part of it. I've always been able to identify who movies, ads, and political campaigns were "targeted" at, but *Zippy* is the only mass entertainment item that has ever seemed "targeted" at people like me. Actually, I had heretofore not known there *were* people like me; it's kind of embarrassing. You seemed to be getting bored with irony just about the same time that I did. Time after time some banality of modern life has irked or piqued me, only to show up a week or two later in *Zippy*. It's really uncanny. Maybe it's that you bring so much honesty to the strip. There have been missteps, of course: looking back on strips from the early Eighties, your political observations were not as, ah, sophisticated as usual — but hey, I'm not proud of my taste in hair, clothes, or music from that era. People grow (unless they're in *The Family Circus*); the fact that you do in comic strip form is a blessing, and a pleasure, for all of us.

Thomas Riley

•

Griffy,

Apparently, you can't tell when Zippy is not telling the truth. In the strip of 1/3/95, he told you he's Cuban — not so, Yma Sumac comes from Peru (my native country) and Che Guevara is from Argentina, at least he was born and spent his youth there. Unless Zippy was *born* in Cuba. I did enjoy your strip, even if I'm left behind by your allusions.

Miguel

•

Dear Griffy,

My dirtball geometry teacher informed my dirtball classmates that Lewis Carroll was a '60s activist. Did you know him?

Ed Jenner

Ed — Yeh, but that was in the 1860s when we were all much smaller. Or larger. Or something. Ask Alice. –BG

Dear Mr. Griffith,

I'd just like you to know how much I love your comic strip. It is, without a doubt, the most intelligent, humorous and satirical daily I have ever had the pleasure to lay eyes upon. Ever since I witnessed Zippy trade Christmas presents with Jean-Paul Sartre, I knew this was the strip for me. I'd like to tell you that all my friends like *Zippy* too, but they don't. I tell them. They don't listen.

Paul G.

•

Dear Bill,

I love your work. I'm especially fond of the travel sketches. One thing I want to take issue with you is your insulated view of mainstream America. As a people, we all do share the same TV shows, the same gadgets, chain stores and restaurants, but these are only the outer things, and are less cohesive than you may suppose. I would like to see in *Zippy* a recognition of the existence of American regionalisms. There is a great variation in the thinking and outlook of Americans, not only state to state, but county to county.

Jeff Zenick

Jeff — You're right. I do tend to lump the lumpen all together. I think I'll stop watching so much TV and shop less in chain stores. (P.S./ Jeff publishes great little travel 'zines, available from: P.O. Box 877, Tallahassee, FL 32302.) –BG

•

Bill — I'm glad Zippy chose my gang to infiltrate. I hope you don't lose too many papers because of the sequence. Love from *The Family Circus*!

Bil Keane

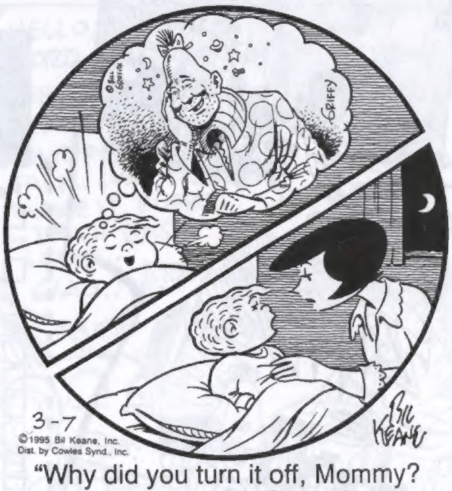
•

Dear Griffy,

It was strange to see Bil Keane's appearance in *Zippy*. I used to love *The Family Circus* as a child, but later came to see it as trite, sentimental and "tapped out, a comic strip anachronism." Could it be that I had lost the "inner Jeffy" that once flourished? Is there still a Billy in me, trying to take the longest way home? I'll trust *Zippy* to show me the way, even if I end up in Tibet, Mars, Hoboken or some otherworldly place.

Chris Carvalho

THE FAMILY CIRCUS® By Bil Keane



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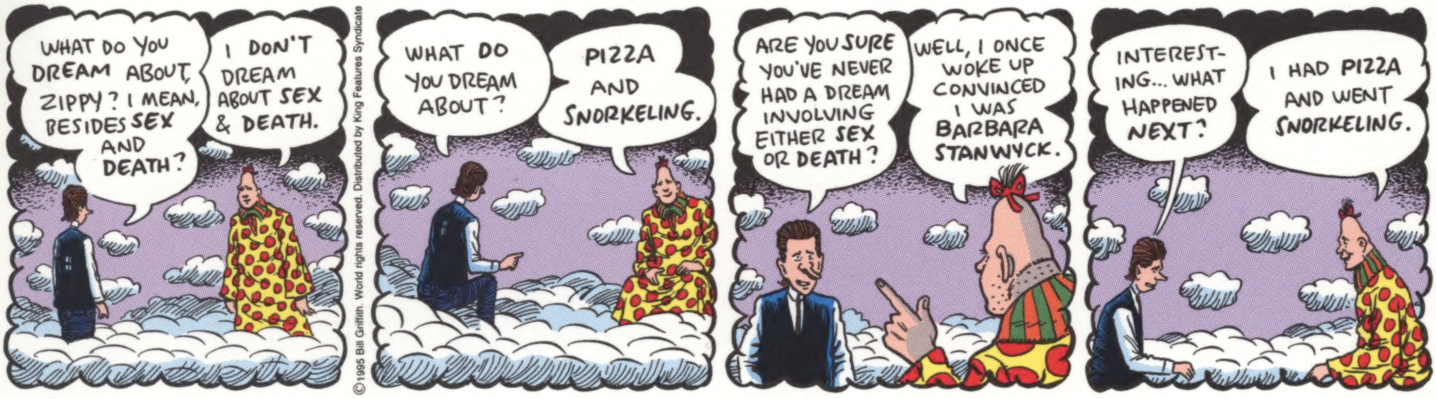
"Why did you turn it off, Mommy? I was watchin' 'Zippy the Pinhead.'"


WHAT DO YOU DREAM ABOUT, ZIPPY? I MEAN, BESIDES SEX AND DEATH?
I DON'T DREAM ABOUT SEX & DEATH.
WHAT DO YOU DREAM ABOUT?
PIZZA AND SNORKELING.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'VE NEVER HAD A DREAM INVOLVING EITHER SEX OR DEATH?
WELL, I ONCE WOKE UP CONVINCED I WAS BARBARA STANWYCK.
INTERESTING... WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
I HAD PIZZA AND WENT SNORKELING.

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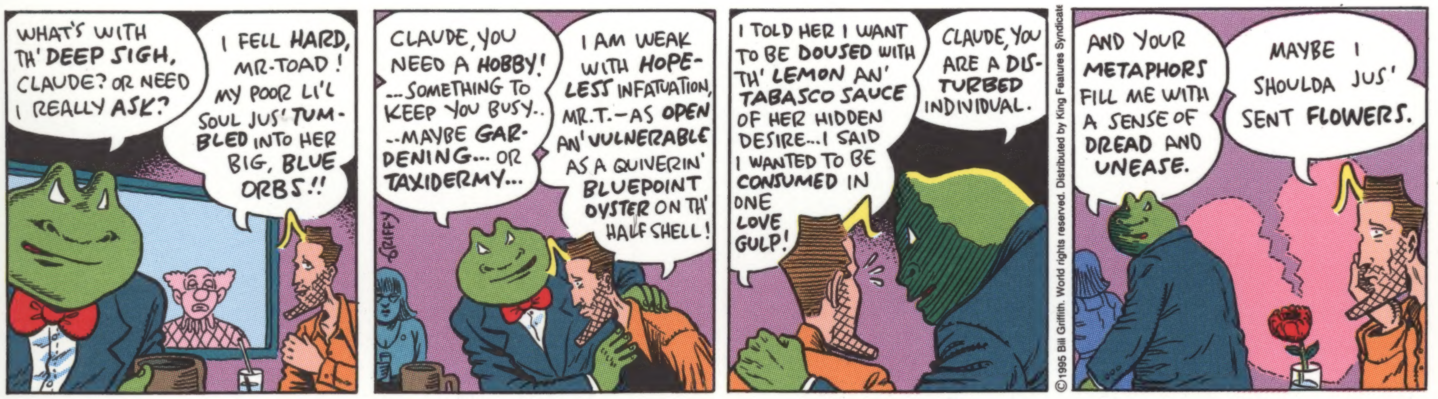
WHAT'S WITH TH' DEEP SIGH, CLAUDE? OR NEED I REALLY ASK?
I FELL HARD, MR. TOAD! MY POOR LI'L SOUL JUS' TUMBLED INTO HER BIG, BLUE ORBS!!
GRIFFY
CLAUDE, YOU NEED A HOBBY! ...SOMETHING TO KEEP YOU BUSY.. ..MAYBE GARDENING... OR TAXIDERMY...
I AM WEAK WITH HOPELESS INFATUATION, MR. T.—AS OPEN AN' VULNERABLE AS A QUIVERIN' BLUEPOINT OYSTER ON TH' HALF SHELL!
I TOLD HER I WANT TO BE DOUSED WITH TH' LEMON AN' TABASCO SAUCE OF HER HIDDEN DESIRE... I SAID I WANTED TO BE CONSUMED IN ONE LOVE GULP!
CLAUDE, YOU ARE A DISTURBED INDIVIDUAL.
AND YOUR METAPHORS FILL ME WITH A SENSE OF DREAD AND UNEASE.
MAYBE I SHOULDA JUS' SENT FLOWERS.

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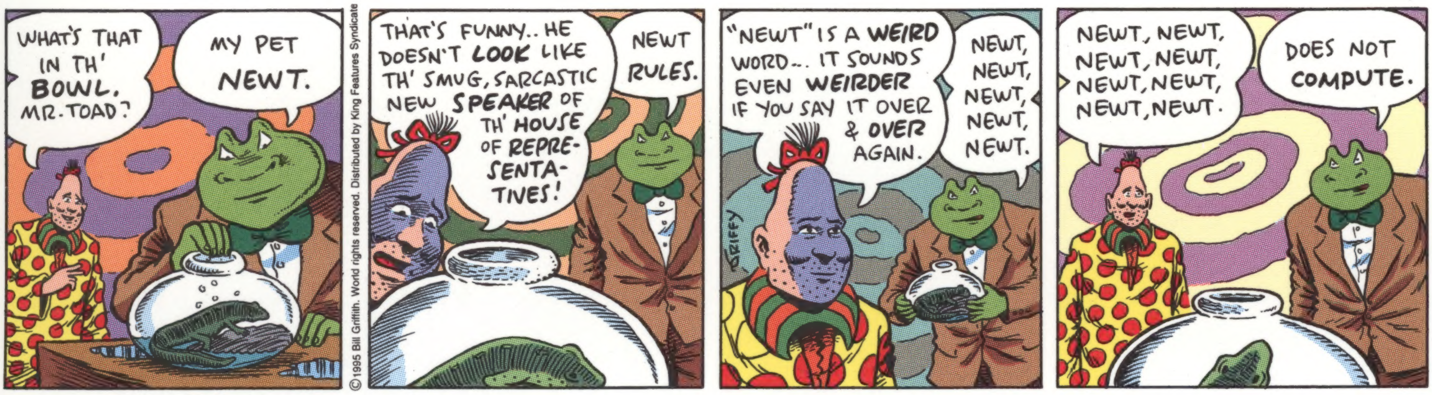
WHAT'S THAT IN TH' BOWL, MR. TOAD?
MY PET NEWT.
THAT'S FUNNY.. HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE TH' SMUG, SARCASTIC NEW SPEAKER OF TH' HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES!
NEWT RULES.
"NEWT" IS A WEIRD WORD... IT SOUNDS EVEN WEIRDER IF YOU SAY IT OVER & OVER AGAIN.
NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT.
GRIFFY
NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT, NEWT.
DOES NOT COMPUTE.

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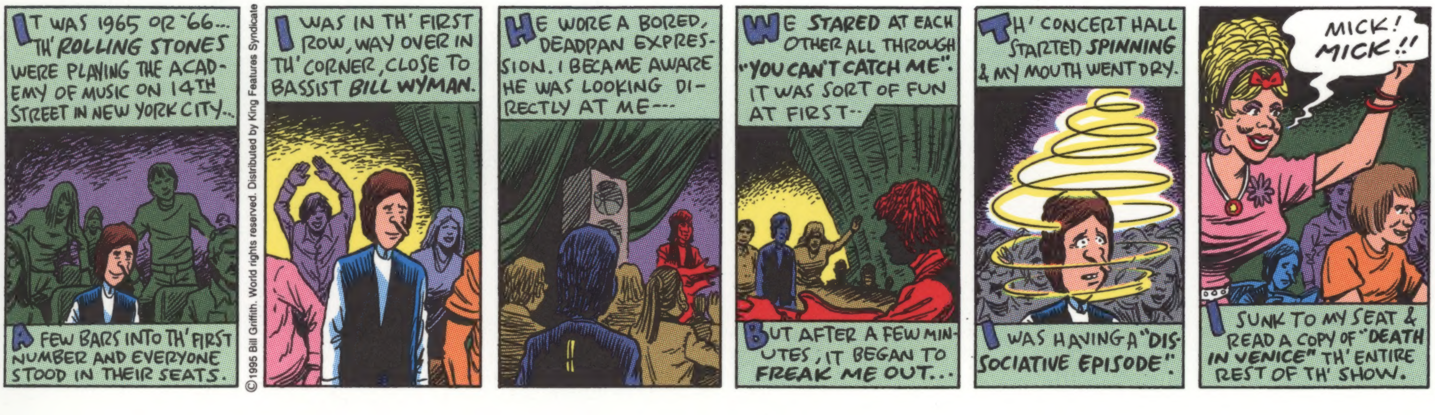
IT WAS 1965 OR '66... TH' ROLLING STONES WERE PLAYING THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC ON 14TH STREET IN NEW YORK CITY...
A FEW BARS INTO TH' FIRST NUMBER AND EVERYONE STOOD IN THEIR SEATS.
I WAS IN TH' FIRST ROW, WAY OVER IN TH' CORNER, CLOSE TO BASSIST BILL WYMAN.
HE WORE A BORED, DEADPAN EXPRESSION. I BECAME AWARE HE WAS LOOKING DIRECTLY AT ME---
WE STARED AT EACH OTHER ALL THROUGH "YOU CAN'T CATCH ME". IT WAS SORT OF FUN AT FIRST--
BUT AFTER A FEW MINUTES, IT BEGAN TO FREAK ME OUT...
TH' CONCERT HALL STARTED SPINNING & MY MOUTH WENT DRY.
I WAS HAVING A "DISSOCIATIVE EPISODE".
MICK! MICK!!
I SUNK TO MY SEAT & READ A COPY OF "DEATH IN VENICE" TH' ENTIRE REST OF TH' SHOW.

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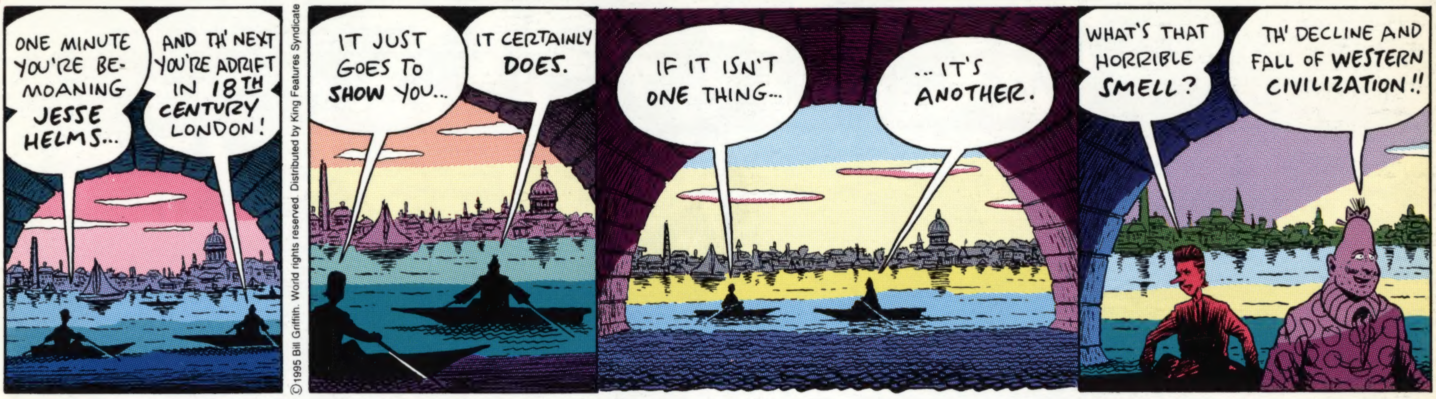
ONE MINUTE YOU'RE BE-MOANING JESSE HELMS...
AND TH' NEXT YOU'RE ADRIFT IN 18TH CENTURY LONDON!
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU...
IT CERTAINLY DOES.
IF IT ISN'T ONE THING...
... IT'S ANOTHER.
WHAT'S THAT HORRIBLE SMELL?
TH' DECLINE AND FALL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION!!

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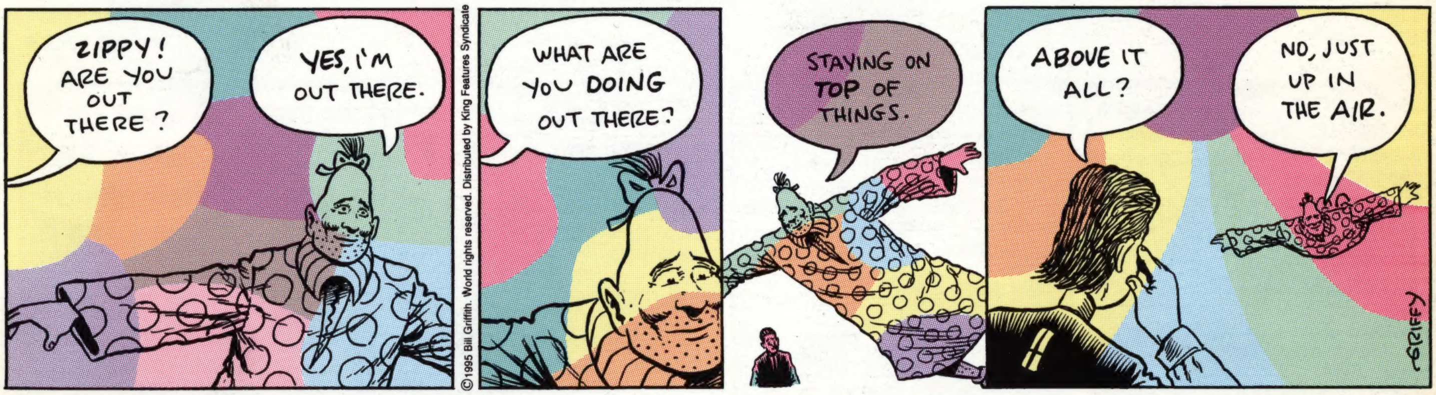
ZIPPY! ARE YOU OUT THERE?
YES, I'M OUT THERE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE?
STAYING ON TOP OF THINGS.
ABOVE IT ALL?
NO, JUST UP IN THE AIR.
GRIFFY

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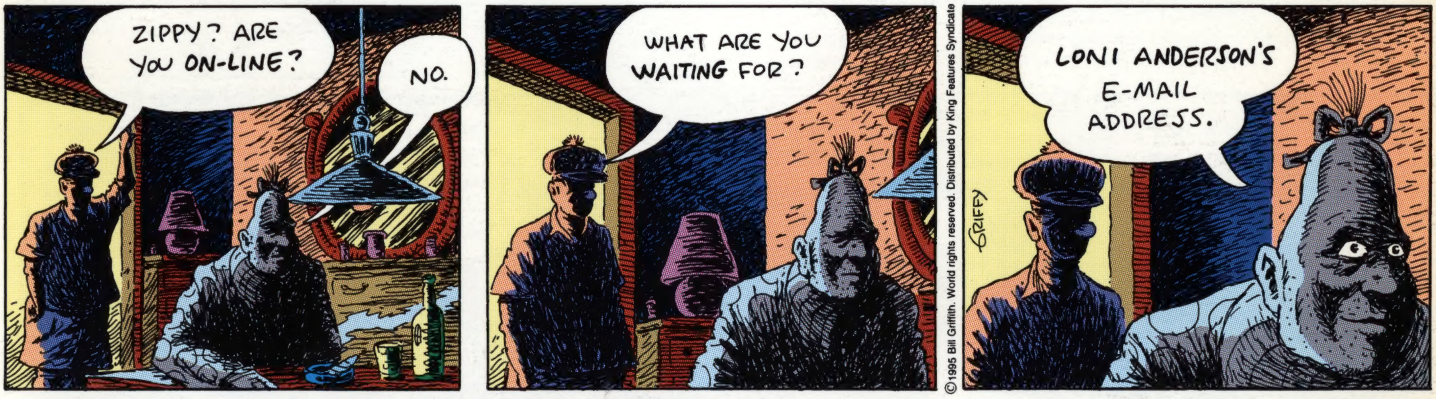
ZIPPY? ARE YOU ON-LINE?
NO.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
LONI ANDERSON'S E-MAIL ADDRESS.
GRIFFY

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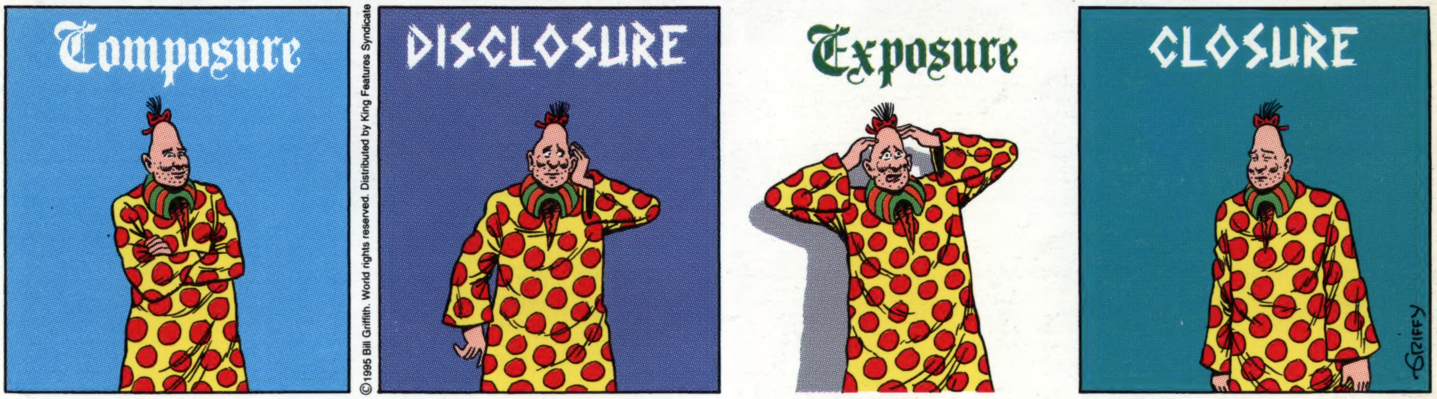
Composure
DISCLOSURE
Exposure
CLOSURE
GRIFFY

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"I'm very old and I know the whole world."

—Gregorio Fuentes, 97, former captain of Ernest Hemingway's fishing boat, the *Pilar*